



Participation, Equity & Excellence



## CANTERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Wangal and Bediagal Country

+61 2 9718 2884

Church Street Canterbury NSW 2194

canterbury-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

canterbury-p.schools.nsw.gov.au

### Home Reading: Information Letter Levelled Readers

Dear Parents and Carers

We are thrilled to recommence our home reading program, 'Kids who Read, Succeed!' This whole school program is an opportunity for students to improve their reading with parent support. The aim of our home reading program is to develop **essential reading for pleasure habits** and promote supportive links between the home and school to improve students' literacy and language skills.

Research shows that the best predictor of future education achievement and life success is reading ability, or, more significantly, being an engaged and habitual reader. There is also strong evidence that reading for pleasure can increase empathy, improve relationships with others, reduce the symptoms of depression and improve wellbeing throughout life.

As part of our home reading program your child will bring home a variety of levelled books to read. Please note that **the level of the book will be intentionally easier than the texts they will be working with in class**. This research-informed approach allows children to practise targeted literacy skills at home whilst reducing the risk of becoming frustrated or developing feelings of resentment towards the program.

Your child will be allocated home reading days and on these days your child will be given 1-2 home readers to take home. Students are to read these home readers every night and return them to school to swap on their next allocated home reading day. Books will not be changed every day, as engaging with a text several times helps build fluency and comprehension, vital reading skills. The repetition of reading the same book aloud a number of times also builds children's confidence and self-efficacy as a reader.

Students will also bring home a reading log book to record the book's title, date, pages read and comment. We ask that you or another adult spend 20 minutes daily listening to your child read aloud. Five minutes of this time will be listening to them read the home reader and then 15 minutes will be spent listening to them read a book of their choice, or reading to your child. The success of the program requires that families support the program each day, including on weekends where realistic. We understand that families have many commitments outside of school so reading consecutive nights will not always be possible.

To further encourage maximum student participation, *Kids who read, succeed* tokens will be awarded when students have read 25, 50, 75 and 100 nights. Simply return your child's reading log after 25, 50, 75, 100...etc. reads for the chance to win a book prize. Remind your child to place their token into the prize draw box located in the library.

Please sign your child's log each night and write a comment if you wish. Prompts and guidelines of how to support your child in the reading process are on the back of this note. To further support the program at school, **please encourage your child to pack a book in their bag every day so that they can read at school**. If you have any questions about the *Kids who read, succeed* program, please contact your child's teacher.

Yours sincerely

Tracy Considine  
Principal

## Making the Most of Your Reading Time

Here are some tips to help your child at home as they learn to read:

### Make Time

Set aside 'special time' to read together (e.g. when preparing dinner). This will build enthusiasm for reading instead of making it seem like a chore. Find a place that is quiet and has minimal distractions. If your child is reluctant to read, offer to take one page each. Build this time into your family routine.

### Be Patient

When your child is trying to read an unfamiliar word, give them time to do so. Try not to jump in with the answer straight away. Praise the effort your child makes, whether they read the word correctly or not. Remember, the point of home reading is to develop a love of reading for pleasure. Reward perseverance rather than rescue.

### Help Them Succeed

No one likes to hear "no" when they make a mistake. Helpful prompts you can say include: "You're close," "Let's try that again," or "Does that sound right to you?" Encourage your child to use the pictures as a clue to what the unknown word could be. Encourage them to have a look at the first letter of the word and slowly say that sound and the sounds that follow.

### Have They Understood?

Ask questions after you have finished reading. These questions should encourage recall and thinking such as, "Why do you think \_\_\_\_\_ happened?" or "How do you think \_\_\_\_\_ feels? How do you know?" For more able readers, you can ask questions such as, "What messages do you think that the author is trying to convey about the world/people?" "How does the author engage the reader?" "Why do you think the author chose to say \_\_\_\_\_ in that way?" and "How does the main character change throughout the story?"

### Read Storybooks at Bedtime

Make sure you save time for reading with your child as well. Reading to your child allows them to see you model fluent and expressive reading. You can demonstrate pace and intonation. Showing that you enjoy reading to your child will help them foster a love of reading too and build lifelong memories of special reading time.

### Books in your Home Language

Canterbury Public School teachers encourage families to also read books written in your home language. The life-long benefits are limitless and promote high levels of literacy and language skills in young people.



## Sample Recording Page

Below is an example of a recording page complete with comments and progress. Suggestions for recording your child's progress are included on pages 2 and 3.

Record the Date and fill in the face.	Space for parent or student to write a comment.	Title of the book.
WEEK BEGINNING: Mon 25/2/19		
Mon 25/2	Our whole family loves these bear books. Read 7:15-7:30pm	The very cranky bear
Tue 26/2	At the MCG, just like Nate one day last year. 7:05-7:25	Too Cool: Match Day Football
Wed 27/2	Finished Nate loves 7:00-7:20 reading footy books	Too Cool: Match Day Football
Thu 28/2	Yay!! 25 night Award & Sticker. Very exciting. 6:40-7:05	The very noisy bear
Fri 29/2	CHAPTER 1-3 GREAT READING, THIS IS A GREAT FUNNY BOOK. 7:20-7:45pm	THE 13 STOREY TREEHOUSE
Sat 3/3	YOU ARE REALLY GETTING THROUGH THIS BOOK. WE ARE THIS AT ALL. 12:05-12:50pm	THE 13 STOREY TREEHOUSE
Monthly Comment: I'm pleased to see you're challenging yourself starting the Treehouse books. Hope you enjoy it. Jan 1/3/19		

A space for a comment from parents, or teacher, at the end of a week to provide further feedback on progress.

Place one of the Student Stickers on the page.

A running record of the total days reading a student has achieved during the school year.

No Reading? Then don't record anything.