

## Grade 1 Home Reading Routine



Dear Grade 1 Families,

As we continue to get settled into the new school year, I am excited to introduce the Grade 1 home reading routine. Tremendous value is placed upon this daily routine. It is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to spend some quality time together and snuggle up with some reading material.

Today your child has brought home their home reading bag. Within the package you will find two items:

1. A **book** from our home reading library.

We are very lucky to have a wonderful selection of books in our classroom library. I encourage each student to take good care of our books as they are transported between home and school. These books are leveled for independent reading. Throughout the year, as your child progresses, the text will increase in difficulty. Independent reading means that your child can successfully read 90 - 100% of the book.

2. A **folder** that will be utilized as a reading log and parent information guide.

Please record the book(s) or other literature your child has read, their reading minutes (optional) and any observations and comments worth noting on the reading log.

It is recommended that each Grade 1 student read for a minimum of 10 minutes every evening. This includes any discussion connecting to the reading before, during and after. You could start by looking at the cover of the book and making some predictions about the reading. Encourage your child to connect the text to real life events as they read. When the story is done, take some time to discuss the text, re-tell and share reading strategies being used. Take your time when you are reading, think quality over quantity.

Students will keep their book for 1 - 2 days. Re-reading helps to develop **comprehension** (understanding) and **fluency** (smoothness and pace of oral reading). Please assist your child by ensuring their home reading bag is made available in their backpack. Small reading rewards or incentives will be given to the students along the way with the ultimate reward being their improved development in reading.

The students are encouraged to use the leveled reading material provided in our class and through Raz-Kids (more information to follow). Students are also permitted to read and record other reading material from the school Learning Commons, local library or personally owned books for home reading. Any additional literacy practices can be recorded on the home reading log such as reading to your child or reviewing sight words (more information to follow).

Finally, we know that sometimes a child's reading ability and interest don't always match up. Please do allow your child to sometimes choose a book simply because it peaks their interest. If this is the case, your child may choose to read the pictures (and possibly some words), or this may be a great opportunity for you to model good reading and read to them.

Although it doesn't seem that 10 minutes a night is a lot of reading, over the year it will make a tremendous difference for your child. Spending time exploring literature with your child is one of the most important things you can do to help them become a successful reader and writer. The power of this program is evident in the progress that your child will make, the more that they read at home, the better they will be!

All students will be monitored and encouraged to build their reading skills by choosing "Good Fit" books that support the reading behaviours we are wanting to see from them. Information about "Good Fit" books and reading behaviours being practiced in class will be communicated to parents throughout the school year. As you read together, continue to monitor your child's reading to determine their appropriate reading level. **Should you feel that your child is ready for a new reading level, please indicate this in the notes section of the reading log AND in your child's agenda. Re-assessment of the students' reading level will take place as close to the day the note is recorded as possible. Students should not change personal reading levels until they have met with their classroom teacher.**

Please contact me should you have any questions regarding our home reading routine.

Happy reading everyone!

The Grade One Team

The more that you READ,  
the more things you will  
KNOW.  
  
The more that you LEARN,  
the more places you'll GO.

- Dr. Seuss

