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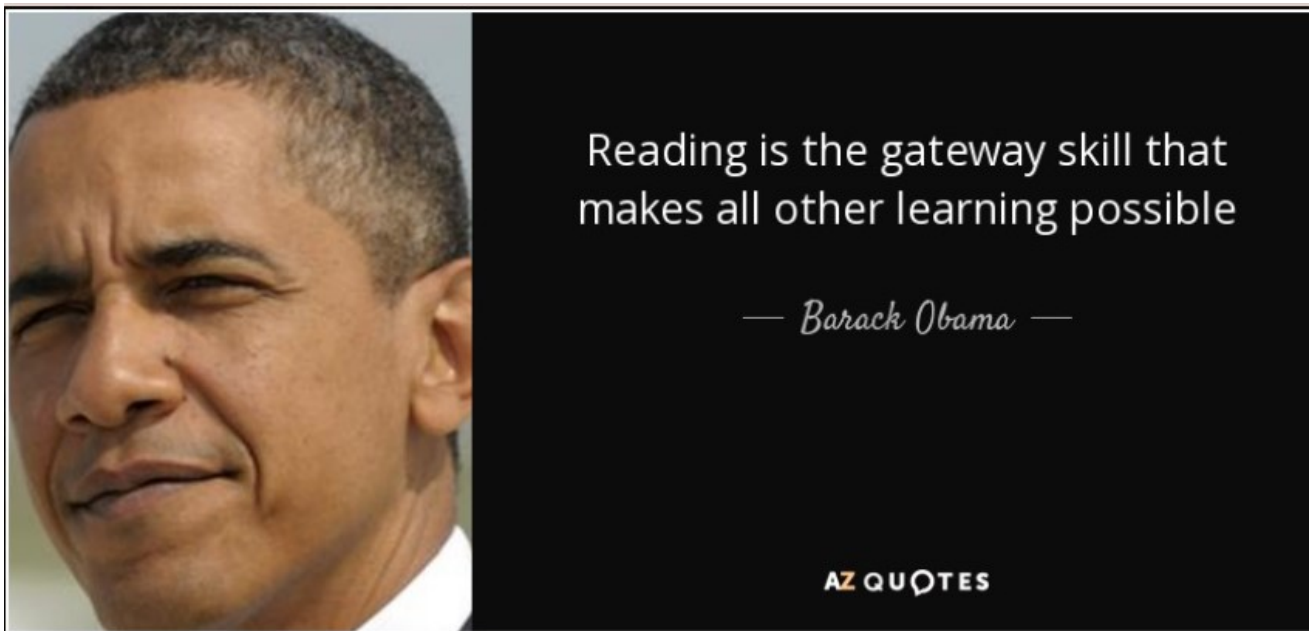
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Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome back! I do hope you all had a lovely ½ term break and the opportunity to spend time with friends and family.

As I mentioned in the newsletter before the break, this ½ term we are focussing on supporting the children to develop a love of reading and hone their reading skills.



Reading is fundamental to learning. It is so important that our children become confident, happy readers if they are to be confident happy learners.

As part of our drive to promote a real love of books and reading, next week the author, James Campbell is visiting us on Monday and on Thursday we will be spending the day celebrating books by doing lots of book related activities and dressing up for World Book Day.

Reading is a skill we continue to develop throughout our lives, but starting this process as early as possible has significant benefits for our continued success as readers.

The teaching of reading and reading comprehension within the classroom is only part of a child's experience; the value that is given to reading at home is equally important.

Research suggests that children who read regularly outside of school perform significantly better in school; so, as parents and carers, you play a vital role in helping your child to reach their full potential in becoming a fluent reader, confidently able to apply reading skills across all areas of their lives.

In order to become a confident reader, regular practice, as with anything, helps. You can help your child to achieve by listening to them read daily (about 15 minutes is recommended). This could be reading a bedtime story, encouraging them to enjoy reading on their own or sharing books together.

Reading a wide range of books and materials will help develop your child's vocabulary, which in turn will make them more confident. Giving your child a choice over what they read is important in boosting their enthusiasm for reading; children are more likely to be interested in books they have selected for themselves.

To help the children keep track of their reading and to encourage them to read more, we are relaunching our reading diaries so they can record what they read on a daily basis.

We would like you to please sign the reading record every time you listen to your child read, and add a brief comment. For more confident, fluent readers, it may be more appropriate for them to read to themselves, although it would be great if an adult could talk to them about their reading as well and sign the diary each time too.

Your support with reading at home is essential. By working together can we ensure your child achieves their potential as a reader.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J. Balado  
Head Teacher