

*Dear Parents,*

*Welcome back! We trust you all had a good break and now are raring to go for the new academic year.*

*Those of you who know me will testify to how passionate I can be about the importance of reading and so, true to form, I have spent some of the summer reading the DfE's Review of Reading document. I was reassured to see that much of their recommendations we were already incorporating into our school days. However, one area that I felt we needed to tweak was reading at home.*

*This has been something I have been thinking about a lot as I am aware how busy everyone's lives are and how tricky it can be to squeeze reading into our home routines. As a school, we find that our children tend to do less and less reading at home as they get older (the lure of the dreaded iPads and phones I fear!) and this is something I am keen to address.*

*With this in mind, from this term, our junior children will no longer bring home a Reading Record/Diary from school. Instead, we are going to give them an A4 book that will be their Reading Journey and will be kept in school.*

*Each week there will be opportunity for them in class time to create a page or two detailing their current reading. This will be supported by class teachers and there will also be an expectation that they include a page about the book that their teacher is reading aloud in class. The hope is that these books will track their reading in a more meaningful and enjoyable way. Teachers will be able to quickly see who is reading at home, have discussions with the children about their recommendations for books and just enjoy sharing a love of books with their class.*

*It is hoped that this takes a little pressure off you as parents to be filling in reading records all the time! Instead, we ask that you read with and to your children as regularly as you can. If you do this, then the children will find completing their Reading Journey lessons an absolute breeze and we as teachers will be able to see that reading has happened at home. Just think, no more 'hunt the reading record' time!*

*I'd like to thank you all in advance for your support with this. We really think that this is going to be a much more enjoyable way to track reading for everyone.*

*Mrs Wakefield*

