

ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL



'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'

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'It Really Does Matter'

11th November 2022

Abbotswood Reading Challenge 2022-2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very excited to launch our 'Abbotswood Reading Challenge'. This is similar to the 'Book Bingo' challenge we have had in previous years. The Abbotswood Reading Challenge is an **optional** reading challenge which aims to encourage children to read a variety of high quality, engaging and enjoyable books written by some fantastic authors.

Most importantly, the Abbotswood Reading Challenge aims to promote and nurture a love of reading. However, it is also designed to ensure that children are challenged by the books they are reading. With the increased expectations of the curriculum, the texts children are expected to read and respond to are much more demanding. We therefore hope the reading lists for each year group give you an accurate picture of the expectations for each year. Each list contains many wonderful book titles, including chapter books, picture books and poetry - all of which are targeted at your child's age group. Additionally, we are providing the list of Hampshire Library Service 2022 recommended reads for each year group. This details some of the most recent great reads. Some of these books are available on our Ebook platform Sora. Mrs Duell, our librarian, and your child's class teacher will be happy to discuss and recommend titles suitable for your child.

The aim of the Abbotswood Reading Challenge is for children to read a book from the list and complete a relevant activity from the Abbotswood Reading Challenge Grid. There are milestones that the children aim for at each part of the challenge – helped by our Abbotswood Reading Challenge mascots. Gold, Silver and Bronze prizes will then be awarded to children as follows:

Gold: 35 books Silver: 20 books Bronze: 10 books

In addition to prizes, children will receive House Points as they progress through the challenge:

Gold: 100 House Points Silver: 75 House Points Bronze: 50 House Points

For those children who achieve Gold, a special prize will be awarded to them - linked to our Abbotswood Book Day in the summer term.

These are designed to be challenging targets which children can aspire to achieve. The book lists include a variety of chapter books, poetry and picture books for children to choose from.

The Rules

Maximum of 10 picture books

Maximum of 5 poetry books

5 'free choice' fiction

5 'free choice' non-fiction

'Free choice' means that your child can choose any quality fiction / non-fiction title that is not on the list. Every child is allowed 5 free choice fiction books and 5 free choice non-fiction books. 'Non-fiction' can be a history, geography, biography, or any other type of information book, but not annuals, 'Where's Wally' or cookery books.

To take part in the Abbotswood Reading Challenge, your child needs to collect a pack from Mrs Duell in the library.

Each pack will contain:

- An A4 log book to record activities in.
- The reading list relevant to their year group.
- A list of recommended reads from Hampshire School Library service – most of which are also available on the Ebook platform Sora.
- The Abbotswood Reading Challenge Grid that lists the activities – for each book that your child finishes, they must select and complete one of the activities on their Abbotswood Reading Challenge Grid. These activities can be completed in their green log book or written on a piece of A4 paper and stuck in. When your child shows their completed work to the librarian Mrs Duell, this activity will be crossed off on their Abbotswood Reading Challenge Grid.
- Abbotswood Reading Challenge Grid Task Explanations - this sheet explains how to complete each of the activities. We have tried to include a range of different activities. Resources to support these can be found in the library (including book review templates, post card templates and blank cartoon strips).

Our initiative is unique to Abbotswood Junior School, so the books can be found within our fantastic library. Please encourage your child to source their books during their allocated class library slot every week, at break-times and at lunchtimes. Additionally, they can use the Ebook platform Sora. There is a search option on the Sora platform. Other libraries can be used to source books, but our aim is to make our library the first port of call. For children who are on a reading scheme or who find these books too challenging to read independently, please read a book with your child. They can then complete an activity based on this book. Some children have asked whether they can listen to audiobooks. Listening to stories is a great way to engage with a text but we recommend that this is only used for a few of the books because there is much greater value to be gained from a child reading the text themselves or reading it alongside an adult. Our Abbotswood Reading Challenge will run from Monday 14th November 2022 through to Monday 19th June 2023. Children can join the challenge at any time. We will be organising assemblies throughout the year to celebrate children achieving their certificates.

We encourage the children to complete their Abbotswood Reading Challenge activities at home. However, we also provide opportunities during the school day including break and lunch times. We also have a dedicated Friday lunchtime club where Mrs Duell is available to support children with their activities. If children are worried about losing their green log book or are enjoying completing activities at school, they can keep their log books in the library. If this is the case, please encourage your child to speak with Mrs Duell about this.

Thank you in advance for your support and happy reading!

Yours sincerely,

Ms Cat Gonzalez
Curriculum Team

Miss Emily Jordan
Reading for Pleasure Leader

Mrs Jess Duell
School Librarian