Dear parents/carers

Today, the children in years 3 – 6 were introduced to our brand-new reading scheme! We are very excited to finally be rolling it out, after much appreciated time and effort from our book labelling squad (enormous thanks to our parent volunteers!)

The children have all been tested on a fully individualised and adaptive quiz which analyses their reading fluency, retrieval skills, inference skill and vocabulary range. This quiz then generates a ‘ZPD’ (The Zone of Proximal Development) which defines the readability range from which students should be selecting books in order to achieve optimal growth in reading skills without experiencing frustration. This will enable all of our children to select books which they are both capable of reading and able to enjoy. Each child will receive a sticker in their reading diary next week which tells them their ZPD. Many of the classes have already shared their ZPDs and selected a new book. We are in the process of ensuring we have a plentiful library of books for the children to choose from and are continually adding in new titles. You can help your child to search for books at home on the following website [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) . Here you will be able to search for books by name or search for books within your child’s ZPD. Great for finding Christmas presents!

In order for this new scheme to be successful in improving reading skills, we ask that your child reads as frequently as possible and at least 3 times a week out loud to an adult. Reading out loud is an important skill, even for children in Years 5 and 6 and one that needs to be continually developed. We encourage you and your children to share in what they are reading, read together and discuss the exciting plot lines and characters.

Children will continue to have opportunities to read within school so must bring their reading book with them each day. Please ensure your child treats each book with care and respect and returns it to school in the same condition so that others can enjoy it too.

Finally, to motivate the children to read more and facilitate their comprehension development, we are running reading competitions in every class. Once your child has finished a book they are able to take a short, online quiz in school about the story and characters they have just read. Points are awarded for the questions they answer correctly; the longer the book, the more points they can score. Each class will be keeping a weekly Top Ten Leader-board for the most points scored in their class. At Christmas, the top ten highest scoring children from each class shall receive a Christmas treat for their fantastic commitment to reading. One lucky child from each class’ top 10 will win an Amazon voucher and we will also be awarding a prize for The Most Improved Reader in each class.

The powerpoint shared with the children today is available for you to view on our school website. We hope you will join us on our reading journey and help to facilitate a passion for reading in Ashdene.

Miss Baldock