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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Reading at Home

At Winslow Church of England, we are always looking for ways to encourage a love of reading among our pupils, both in school and at home. Reading at home plays a crucial role in a child's development. Research shows that children who are read to regularly are exposed to 1.4 million more words by the time they start school compared to those who aren't read to. Even just 15 minutes of reading a day can expose children to over 1 million words a year! This exposure not only boosts their vocabulary but also significantly improves their writing, comprehension, and overall academic success. Reading is the biggest indicator of a child's future academic success.

To help celebrate and encourage reading, we are excited to introduce our new initiative: **Reader of the Week!**

Each week, teachers will nominate a child who has shown effort and progress in their reading journey — whether this be through home reading, achievements on Accelerated Reader, or fantastic progress in their phonics or class work. This will be celebrated during our celebration assembly each Friday.

Our Reader of the Week will have the special opportunity to take home the Book Buddy Bag. The **Book Buddy Bag** will include:

- A selection of exciting new books and texts to enjoy.
- A special reading diary where your child can write about what they have read, what they enjoyed, and even draw pictures if they wish!
- A cuddly Book Buddy who they can share their stories with throughout the week.

In addition to this, we are delighted to announce that our **school library will now be opening once a month** after school for parents and children to come and enjoy books together. This will be a lovely opportunity to explore a range of books, spend some quality time reading, and foster a love of stories and learning as a family. Please look out for dates in our weekly newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Please help your child by encouraging regular reading at home — every page makes a difference!

Amanda Moseley

Assistant Head/English Lead