**HOME READING GUIDE**

It is not only important for children to be able to read the words in a text but it is even more important that they understand what it is that they are reading. So as a school we have created this document so that you, as parents and guardians, may feel more prepared while reading with your child each night.

Listed below are a collection of questions and discussion starters that you can use to begin a conversation with your child, once they have read a text. You will see that there are questions for both fiction and non-fiction texts for you to use as a guide to help develop deep and meaningful discussions around a variety of home readers.

As a whole school we teach the students to pay attention to their thinking by tracking different kinds of thoughts as they read. This begins in prep and is built upon each year.

**HOW TO READ WITH YOUR CHILD:**

* Find a quiet place to sit together.
* Before reading, choose a question from the list below to discuss the text.
* Have your child read to you out loud (this may be the entire book or 1-2 chapters depending on your child’s ability).
* If your child gets stuck on a word first encourage them to have a go, if they try different strategies and do not succeed it is ok to tell them the word.
* Choose 1-3 questions to ask from the list below to discuss the text.
* Sign the yellow home reader book, homework book or diary (depending on their year level).

**3 MAIN THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN READING WITH YOUR CHILD:**

1. *Reading with your child is supposed to be an enjoyable time for both you and your child!*
* If it is not, please see your child’s teacher as soon as possible for some support.
* Home reading is not designed to be a long task, 10-15 minutes a night should be plenty of time to read and have a quick discussion.
1. *Give your child time to use strategies when reading difficult words.*
* All of our students are taught great strategies to use but sometimes simply encouraging them to have a go (and praising that effort) is all they need, making mistakes is such an important part of learning!
1. *The conversation after reading a text is not a memory test.*
* Allow your child to look back through the pages to find the answers to your questions or allow them to find proof from the text to show you – these are great strategies to use!

**NON-FICTION**

**Questions and discussion starters:**

*Before reading the text:*

* Look at the front cover, what do you already know about this topic?
* Make a prediction, what kind of information do you think you will learn about in this book?

*After (or during) reading the text:*

* Tell me 2 pieces of information you learnt about in this book. Where did you learn this in the book?
* How did the author teach you about this topic? (Information, diagrams, photographs?)
* Does this book remind you of anything? Why?
* Do (eg. koalas) remind you of any other animals? Why?
* Look at the diagram/photograph on page \_\_\_. What did you learn from this?
* What is something that you found really interesting in this text?
* Why did the author write this book?

**FICTION**

**Questions and discussion starters:**

*Before reading the text:*

* Make a prediction, what do you think the problem will be in this story? Why?
* Look at the front cover, what does this book remind you of?

*After (or during) reading the text:*

* What happened in the story? Tell me the main parts.
* How did the character feel when \_\_\_ happened? How could you tell?
* What does this story remind you of?
* Do you like this book? Why/not?
* What do you think will happen next for these characters?
* Tell me a question you had as you read the book.
* Why do you think the character reacted that way when \_\_\_ happened?
* Why did you choose this book to read?
* What is your favourite part of the book? Why?
* What do you think is the author’s message in this book?