



Reading Journals for Years 5 and 6

What happened?

In June, a survey was sent out to parents asking for feedback on the online and App based BoomReader. This was used to record reading in Years 4, 5 and 6. There was very low engagement with this app. The responses were mixed, some preferring BoomReader to traditional reading records and others preferring the traditional reading record. As a school we had some concerns, many of which were shared by you as parents and carers.

- Screen time – it is encouraging pupils to use screens, particularly around bedtime which is when most parents/carers read with their child
- Ease of use – the less tech savvy of us didn't find it easy!
- How to record pupils reading when they are fluent readers

We wish to address these concerns whilst meeting the expectations of the school as well as what the Government advise to schools around reading. Therefore, we have designed a paper reading record with is unique to Holy Trinity for Y5 and 6. As a school, we are committed to having an open dialogue between home and school about reading. It is essential that reading is tracked to gain a better understanding of each child as a reader.

Holy Trinity have decided to introduce Reading Journals to Years 5 and 6. These are reading records, similar to those used further down the school. They allow pupils to record each time they read, with simple general comments, record words they struggled and gain an understanding of their enjoyment of a certain book.

Why have a reading log?

Teaching a child to read is a ongoing process and an integral part of their development. Continuing the emphasis on reading, reading aloud and comprehension is vital throughout KS2.

Reading records provide a space for parents, teachers and children to write comments about the books. This dialogue between teacher, child and parent is crucial. **It aids the teacher to judge whether a child is an independent reader, at home, which helps with our holistic assessment of a child's reading.**

Children of all abilities can benefit from using reading records in KS2.

Children who can struggle with reading will benefit from recording and reflecting on their reading regularly.

Advanced readers will benefit from writing reflective comments about the books they have read, and from continued practice reading out loud.

What we want from you!

Parents are expected to write in the Reading Journal once a week and sign/initial this comment.

There are also pages available for pupils to write a book review or complete a Reading Response activity (a chart of activities found at the back of the Reading Journal) on the provided blank 'Notes' page. Pupils are expected to complete one of these activities a week and we will reward excellent effort and engagement with these activities. There will also be a Star Reader at the end of each term in each class. **Reading records will be checked once a week.**

Please see below for an example of how reading can be recorded:

Week beginning: _____

Class / School Reader				
Book Title	Date	Pages read / Comments (please initial)	Words I do not know (List them below and find it's definition)	Comments from pupil - Rating (out of 5 stars)
The Bad Guys	9/9/24	12-35 Read with great expression TD	express	☆☆☆☆☆

The aim of the Reading Journal:

- Increase the home and school communication surrounding reading
- Increase your child's writing opportunities
- Provide alternative ways to evidence a pupil's understanding of a book, particularly for more fluent readers
- Reduce prescribed screen time which is becoming an increasing concern for young people

Pupils will be handed a Reading Journal this week, when they can begin recording their reading!

I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we have been organising this new way of recording your child's reading. We hope you will find this system successful.

Any general questions in regards to the Reading Journals, please email Miss Davies in the first instance, at tabitha.davies@holytrinity.merton.sch.uk

Kind regards

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