

September 2025

Dear Parents,

This year, in Eagles and Owls classes, we have made the decision to replace traditional reading records with reading journals because we would like the children to engage more meaningfully with their reading.

Reading records often focus only on tracking pages read or logging time, which doesn't always show how well a child understands the text or how they feel about it. In contrast, a reading journal helps children to reflect on what they read. It encourages them to:

- Think more deeply about books
- Build comprehension skills
- Express their ideas through writing or drawing

Reading journals can be used for both fiction and non-fiction texts and allow for more creative and personal responses, which give teachers and parents better insight into what a child is learning and enjoying. This change will help us focus more on quality of reading, not just quantity.

At school, the children will use their reading journals weekly to:

- Record the title and author of the book
- Summarise or respond to what they've read
- Write about characters, events, or facts
- Ask questions or make predictions
- Note new or interesting vocabulary
- Draw scenes, diagrams, or interesting parts of the story
- Reflect on what they liked or learned

We will review these journals and regularly share the children's work with the class to support reading development, encourage discussion, and track progress in comprehension.

We would also like the children to be using their reading journals at home. Two or three times a week, after reading a book or a chapter, please encourage your child to add to their journal. There are ideas for activities in the front of their journals.

Short, regular entries are most effective, and they don't need to be perfect—just a way to reflect and stay engaged. Please look at your child's journal and talk with them about what they've written or drawn. You are also welcome to record comments in your child's journal if you have listened to them read or read to them.

This new approach is designed to be more meaningful, enjoyable, and supportive of your child's reading journey—both at school and at home. It will also support the children in taking more ownership of their learning and hopefully support in building a love of reading.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. Thank you for supporting your child's reading development!

Kind regards,

Rachel Bass, Ailsa Catt and Matt Bird