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Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Reading Diaries

We are delighted to introduce a Reading Diary for every child at Peafield Lane Academy.

Reading is one of the most important skills our children develop. Strong reading skills support children across the whole curriculum, while developing vocabulary, imagination, confidence and a lifelong love of learning. Reading doesn't just reflect achievement – research shows that children who read for pleasure make greater progress as they grow.

Our new Reading Diaries will be coming home this week. They provide a simple way for children, families and school to celebrate reading, build positive habits and keep track of all the wonderful reading taking place at home and in school.

Please support your child to take good care of their diary. We recommend keeping it safely inside your child's book bag, alongside their reading book.

Our Reading Expectation – 10 minutes a day. 5 times a week.

We ask every family to support their child to develop a regular reading habit at home.

Reading can include:

- reading independently;
- reading aloud to an adult;
- sharing a book together;
- listening to an adult read and talking about the story.

Children can read books from school, home or the library, and we encourage them to explore a wide variety of texts.

Children who are learning to read using our decodable phonics books should read their allocated book at least 5 times each week. Re-reading is really important at this stage. It allows children to practise their phonics, develop fluency and become increasingly confident and automatic readers.

We understand that family life can be busy. Our aim is not to create pressure, but to establish a positive and regular habit. Just 10 minutes. Little and often. It all adds up.

Using the Reading Diary

We ask parents and carers to interact regularly with the Reading Diary and record when their child has read. This doesn't need to be a lengthy comment. A quick note and signature is perfect:

- *"Great reading tonight!" – Mum*

- *"Lovely reading. Struggled with the word 'because'." – Dad*

Some of our older children will be encouraged to write their own comments about their reading. We simply ask that an adult signs the diary to confirm that they have read.

There are, of course, lots of opportunities for children to read throughout the school week too. By working together, we can help children see reading as a normal and enjoyable part of everyday life – both at school and at home.

Reading Rewards

We want reading to be something our children feel proud of and excited about. Throughout the year, we will recognise and celebrate children who develop positive reading habits.

- **Peafield Reading Bookmarks**

Children who read consistently will work towards special Peafield Reading Bookmarks. These will celebrate reading milestones: 50 reads → 100 reads → 150 reads → 200 reads → and beyond!

- **Half-Termly Reading Treat**

Children who regularly meet our reading expectation will be invited to a special half-termly reading treat with Miss Clarke.

Most importantly, we want every child who makes an effort to read regularly to feel successful. Our celebrations are about commitment, progress and developing a love of reading – not simply about how quickly a child can finish a book.

Reading Together

Reading should be a pleasure, not a chore. Adventure stories, comics, poetry, non-fiction, graphic novels, magazines, fact books – they all count. We want every child to discover the books, authors and types of reading that capture their imagination. Research shows that the more children read, the better readers they become, and better reading opens the door to learning across the curriculum.

Thank you for supporting us in developing confident, enthusiastic readers at Peafield.

Kind Regards,

English Team

Miss Bodonyi, Mrs Thompson and Miss Bradley