**We need your support to win!**

Dear parent/carer,

To add excitement to the new year, we have entered the **Reading Plus New Year Challenge**. **The five schools with the highest average reading lessons on Reading Plus will be awarded at the end of the six-week challenge.**

In school, we use Reading Plus, an online reading development programme, to help pupils with their reading skills and confidence. Children have access to 1,100+ high-quality online texts that are both engaging and inspirational and match students' reading levels.

**About the Reading Plus New Year Challenge**

Competition organisers Reading Solutions UK will monitor programme data through a weekly leaderboard, which will help you to keep track of your school’s ranking throughout the challenge.

Prizes are awarded as follows:

**The competition starts Monday, 22nd of January, and winners will be announced on Tuesday, 8th of March.**

**How can parents help?**

Reading Plus can be accessed from home via a computer, laptop, or tablet. If you have these devices at home, we encourage you to get your child to use the programme on evenings or weekends for thirty minutes three days a week.

If your child uses Reading Plus at home, from their pupil Dashboard, click on the Families link for more information on how best to support your child with their Reading Plus journey.

**What will my child gain from using the programme?**

The stories are short and engaging to keep motivation levels high. Your child will challenge themselves to become a better reader and, in doing so, develop better reading habits. They will better understand what they have read and be better prepared for assessments.

**How does Reading Plus work?**

Children choose a story (typically 6-7 minutes long) from a level appropriate to their reading ability. Once finished, they answer ten questions to test their understanding.

Reading Plus is not meant to replace physical reading books. It’s also not just an eLibrary - the programme is designed to teach your child to become a more efficient reader, which will add to their enjoyment of reading independently – developing a lifelong love for reading. We hope that students will get much pleasure from using Reading Plus and progress in their reading.

For more information about Reading Plus, please visit www.readingsolutionsuk.com or contact your child’s teacher.

Thank you for your support,

(School name/teacher name)

**Getting the most from Reading Plus at home**

**How does my child log in?**

Your school should have sent you information on how to log in, including a site code (unique to the school) and your child’s username and password. Please get in touch with your child’s teacher if you are unsure of any of these.

**Does Reading Plus work on a laptop or an iPad?**

Reading Plus runs on laptops, desktops, iPads, and tablets. Due to the screen size, we wouldn’t recommend using Reading Plus on a smartphone.

**Do I need to download an app?**

Reading Plus doesn’t need an app downloading - it’s all accessed through a secure website.

**Is there anything I need to do to support my child when they are working on Reading Plus?**

Reading Solutions UK has a range of helpful resources for parents and guardians. Visit <https://www.readingsolutionsuk.co.uk/resource-category/home-use-for-parents-and-pupils/>. You may also wish to sit with your child when they first use the programme. Other than that, it’s just ensuring that Reading Plus is used regularly as directed by the school.

**Can I see what my child is doing on Reading Plus?**

Yes, ask your child to show you their personalised Dashboard - from this screen, you will see when they have been on Reading Plus, for how long, how well they are doing, the level they are reading at, and their reading speed.

**How to check your child’s reading progress**

Once your child is logged in to their Reading Plus account, click on the ‘Families’ link at the top of the screen for more information on how the programme works and resources. Children should aim:

For 80%+ comprehension scores in the Reading lessons.

To earn combos. Pupils will need to complete two Reading Lessons in a row at 80%+.

Unlock new Levels by collecting Combos.

**How long should my child be on Reading Plus?**

Ideally, every day for about 30 minutes (at home and in school combined), but at least three times a week. Little and often is best!

**Why does the program use the moving bar when my child reads the stories?**

We call this the ‘Guided Window’. The Guided Window was developed to teach children to navigate lines of text sequentially - sometimes called left-to-right scanning. It teaches children to read at their own pace, which builds fluency and stamina. What happens if we have a problem at home? The easiest thing to do is to contact your child’s teacher. If there is a problem, they should be able to advise.