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**Grampound with Creed C of E School**

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15th February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, reading is a lifelong skill which we strive to develop as your child continues their journey through school. Children need to develop a love of books. This is an important part of the school curriculum, but it is also a philosophy that we wish to embed. To further develop the love of reading we are introducing ‘**READING KARATE’.** This is a reward based system for reading at home which results in the children moving up through coloured ‘belts’ depending on how much they are reading for pleasure. Exact details of this system are on the back of this letter. We would greatly appreciate your support with this new initiative, not only by listening to your child read but by perhaps sharing some of your favourite books from childhood with them too. By developing a shared interest between teachers, parents and children we are hoping to create a passion for reading in our children, whether it is through comics, Kindles, books, or even newspapers and we can achieve this by working together.

**How it works:**

To encourage your child to read we are using a Reading = Reward system. When your child reads at home (either to an adult or to themselves) please discuss with them what they have read, talk about any new words they may have come across, have a chat about what might happen next, and sign their reading record. When they reach one of our reading milestones, they will receive their Reading Bands, and we will celebrate their achievement in Friday’s English Assembly. Please note that the number of reads increases as the band colour changes and children may only count 1 read per day (even if they read 4 or 5 times in that day.) There is not a specific amount of pages to qualify for a read to count. Only reads that happen at home will be counted, and only those that have been signed or initialled by a parent will be counted.

We hope to reward the children who receive their Black and Gold Band with an additional prize at the end of the Summer term. We will count reads up to Sunday 30th June and award the additional prize to the children who have qualified before the end of the summer term. We will continue to award bands until the end of the summer term.

We will start to award the bands after half term in Friday’s assembly and will start counting from the first day of the half term holiday.

This year, our bands will be awarded as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number of reads | Band awarded |
| 10 | White |
| 10 (20 in total) | Yellow |
| 10 (30 in total) | Orange |
| 15 (45 in total) | Blue |
| 15 (60 in total) | Purple |
| 15 (75 in total) | Red |
| 15 (90 in total) | Brown |
| 10 (100 in total) | Black |
| 25 (125 in total) | Gold |

Although we are starting the scheme mid-way through the year, we have counted the potential reads available to the children to ensure that all children, irrespective of age or ability, are able to achieve all of the bands before the end of the academic year. If you have any queries regarding the Reading Karate Scheme, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Thank you very much for your continued support

Catherine Coffee