

## Home Reading Program at Upper Plenty Primary School

29<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dear Parents,

Today your child has started to bring home take-home reading texts for the year. When reading with your child please keep the following information in mind.

1. Reading should be completed at least 10 minutes, four times a week. You may like to read over word lists or homework projects for one night too (this can be written in home-reading diaries).
2. Be passionate and excited about reading. If you share your favourite stories and talk about your love of reading, your child will get excited too and they will look forward to sharing books with you.
3. Books that are sent home should be EASY for your child to read. Reading together should be an enjoyable experience and a time for your child to show you what they can do.
4. With younger children, take it in turns to read pages of a text. Don't feel like your child needs to read every word.
5. Older students may want to read to themselves, support them in doing this and remind them to fill in their home-reading diaries. Ask questions about the text, even if you have not read it yourself Eg: "Who do you think the author had in mind as their ideal audience?"
6. Talk to your child about the text they are reading, discuss the title and why a text might be called this, talk about what is going on in the pictures and makes some predictions about the text. Once you verbalise your thoughts about the text out loud, your child will probably join in.
7. Link events in the text to other texts, to your child's own experiences and what they know about the world eg: "This Christmas book is not set in Australia because it is snowing and in Australia we have Christmas in Summer".
8. Students may want to read a text from a local library or from their home. This is fine, however, the text needs to be an appropriate level and classroom teachers will want to know what text is being read so it should be kept in reading satchels.
9. When you finished reading for the night, ask your child what happened in the text. If they are relying on the text to help them retell information, they may not have understood the text they have read.

Remember, reading together should be fun and enjoyable for EVERYONE and it is a great way to celebrate your child's achievements.

If you have any questions, please see your child's classroom teacher.

Thank you

Linda Varker, Literacy Leader