



Parental Reading Survey 2019

Firstly, many thanks to everyone who spared a moment to complete the reading survey; we very much appreciate the time that you spent completing it and value all of your views and feedback. At Weston, we regularly monitor and evaluate the approaches we use to ensure we are providing the best for our pupils. Your responses and comments provide us with important insights into the role of books and literacy at home and offer suggestions for how we might develop practice and provision in school. We have noted all specific questions that were raised by your comments and will seek to address any areas where a concern has been raised.

In the meantime, thank you for your support and partnership in our shared aim of nurturing confident, independent readers who develop a love and enthusiasm for reading.

Main Findings

Our survey showed that:
• 94% of children enjoy reading at home.
• Over 70% of children enjoy reading 'quite a lot' or 'very much'
• 56% of parents/carers read with their child almost every day or every day
• 58% of pupils read independently almost every day or every day
• Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of pupils will read at home without being prompted each day
• 86% of pupils enjoy using Reading Eggs at home
• 80% of parents/carers say Reading Eggs has improved their child's comprehension
• 88% of parents/carers tell their children reading is important
• Buying books as presents was the most popular way parents/carers use to encourage reading at home (86%), followed by asking to read together (76%)
• Around 50% of children make regular visits to the library or book shops

From the main findings of the survey, and after completing surveys with the pupils also, it is apparent that the vast majority of our children enjoy reading at home. Not only that, many read frequently during the week (almost on a daily basis) with the majority of pupils reading without being prompted. The fact that almost 90% of the parents surveyed said they tell their child reading is important and recognise the importance of reading is a significant driving force behind so many of the pupils reading regularly at home. There was also a strong link between children's enjoyment in reading and how often they read with an adult at home.

As well as that, based on feedback not only from this survey but from teachers also, Reading Eggs has had a significant impact on our pupils' reading comprehension and the

majority of pupils enjoy using it. To improve the effectiveness of Reading Eggs, teachers will be meeting next term to evaluate Reading Eggs in more detail and will be taking all of the comments on board. Feedback on Reading Eggs will also be shared with the developers to help work on the issues identified in the survey (i.e. software crashing, repetitive structure and ambiguity of some questions.)

Finally, reading is clearly valued parents and carers who recognise many of the benefits of reading.

Q. What would you say are the benefits of children reading for pleasure at home?

- *It develops vocabulary, confidence, imagination, communication skills and creativity.*
- *'It's a great way to relax and calm down.'*
- *'The escapism of Reading is wonderful you can be transported to anywhere anytime.'*
- *'It's the most wonderful time of the day to share a book with my child. I am incredibly proud to hear her read.'*
- *'It's an escape, a fun way of learning and aids interaction.'*
- *'Greater understanding of the world. Keeps him off the iPad and Xbox.'*
- *'Improves their spelling and gives them a greater understanding on lots of subjects.'*
- *'Quality time with siblings and parents.'*

Other Comments

You said ... *"Time constraints mean we cannot always fit reading in."*

We recognize that it is hard to make time every day for reading, and stress that it should be a pleasurable activity, so a less frequent but more positive reading experience can be worth a lot. Find a time that works best in your family and make it a part of your child's routine (e.g. bedtime or breakfast).

You said ... *"It's difficult to maintain his/her concentration."*

We recognize that some children struggle to concentrate for prolonged periods, and suggest a little but often approach in a quiet space. Short burst of regular reading can have a huge impact.

You said ... "their Xbox and iPad are more appealing to them"

We recognize that in today's society there are lots of things competing for your child's time, however we would argue that due to the importance of reading for your child's development and the many benefits it brings, reading should take priority.

Next Steps

The responses from the survey were very positive and it has helped us to evaluate the approaches we use at Weston to promote reading. However, while we recognise the strengths we have also identified some areas for improvement moving forward.

As a result of our survey, we aim to:

- Ensure that all families are provided with information about how to support their children with reading at different stages of development;
- Provide more support for parents whose children are unwilling or reluctant to read at home;
- Offer book promotions and book events in school, such as D.E.A.R. time, stay and read sessions, bookswaps, reading clubs etc.
- Ensure that our school library and classroom libraries continue to be well stocked and updated with current, diverse and popular titles to meet the interests and needs of all children.

We find that there is a strong and positive literary culture among children and their families here at Weston. However, we can see that there are children who need more support in becoming well-motivated and independent readers and we will continue to work to ensure that all of our children can really develop a lifelong love of reading and literature.

Thank you once again for taking time to complete the survey and for reading this report.