



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As you know, reading is one of school development priorities this academic year. As Reading Leader in school, we are hoping to instil a thirst and passion for reading in our children from a young age.

First of all, thank you so much for your support with our Christmas reading Wish List – we have truly been overwhelmed with the support. I cannot emphasise how much joy the children had as they saw the books under the tree grow, and they will enhance our curriculum endlessly.

You may be surprised to know that, in a recent national study, only 32% of primary school-aged children (under eight years old) are read to daily by an adult. Furthermore, for children aged between 8-10, this figure drops to 19%. As well as aiming to read more in school and enhance our explicit teaching of reading at All Saints', we also want to emphasise how important children being read to is. We, as staff, are reading aloud significantly more to children in school and now would like to launch our new school campaign: **'Books For Bedtime'**.

As part of this, we are aiming to get every child to become a Calderdale Libraries member. Books can be expensive and so the library is a great, free resource to support bedtime reading and children being read aloud to. You will find here a 'Joining the Library' form. Please return it to school and we will do the rest! (If your child is already a member of the library, please let school know by writing a note in reading planners – thank you.)

Over the next coming Mondays, our three youngest classes will be walking to Skircoat Library (27<sup>th</sup> January for Reception, 3<sup>rd</sup> February for Year 1 and 10<sup>th</sup> February for Year 2). There, they will be read some stories, and introduced to the books and library loans system. With their completed 'Joining' form, they will be issued a library card and will be able to select a book to take home that day. We are hoping these local library visits will become a regular, exciting part of our school week. (If your child is already a member of the library, please bring their library card on that day – thank you.)

Be it a book of your child's choice, your favourite author or a book from your childhood, **'Books For Bedtime'** will allow children to be read to passionately and enthusiastically nightly – as well as during the day at school. Thank you, in advance, for all your support with joining the library and with **'Books For Bedtime'**.

Yours thankfully,

Mr Stuttard