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Headteacher: **Mr. J. Beith NPQH**

Monday 19th October 2026

Dear Parents,

From Friday 23rd October, we will begin sharing the focus text that children in Years 2 to 6 will be using in their reading lessons through our weekly bulletin. A new text will be shared once a fortnight, giving families access to the text children will be studying in school over the following two weeks.

A link to the text will be included in the bulletin, giving families the option to view it on screen or download and print it at home if they wish.

There is absolutely no expectation for children to complete any additional written work. Instead, we hope that sharing the text in advance will give families another opportunity to support reading at home and help children feel familiar and confident when they encounter the text in school.

You might choose to:

- **Read the text together**, taking turns to read sections aloud.
- **Talk about unfamiliar vocabulary**, discussing what new words might mean and how they are being used in the text.
- **Discuss the topic or theme** and encourage your child to share anything they already know about it.
- **Make connections** with previous learning, books they have read, places they have visited or things they have seen or heard about.
- **Ask questions and make predictions** about what they think they might learn from the text.
- **Encourage your child to summarise** what they have read in their own words.



Try a family 'Book Club' approach, particularly with older children. You could read the text separately and then come back together to share your thoughts, questions and any parts you found interesting, surprising or confusing.

Older children often enjoy being treated as fellow readers rather than simply being questioned about a text, so sharing your own thoughts and asking for theirs can lead to really valuable discussion.

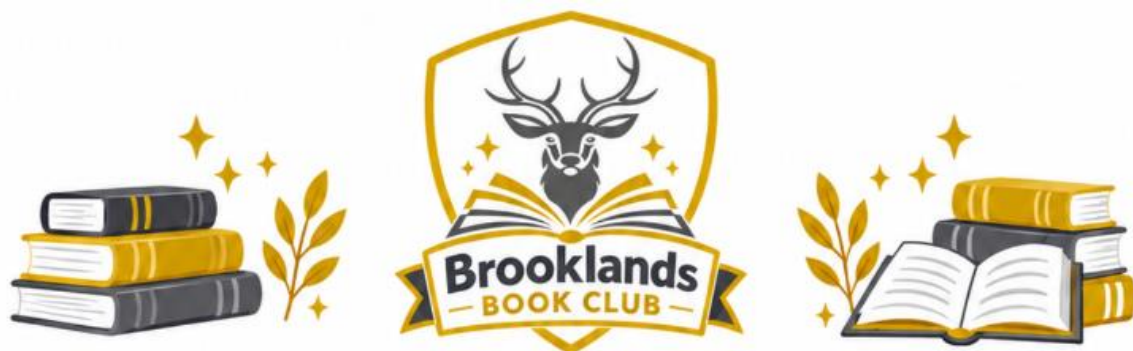
To support these conversations, we have also put together a bank of **useful sentence stems and questions** that you can use when talking about a text with your child. These are designed for children in Years 2 to 6 and include prompts to support discussion around the core reading domains.

Even a short conversation about the text can make a real difference. Building background knowledge and developing vocabulary helps children to make sense of what they read and supports the work they will then complete in their reading lessons.

We hope you find having access to the texts useful and that it provides another simple way to talk about reading and learning together at home.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Simpson
Assistant Headteacher



Questions to Try When Reading Together

These are simply suggestions to support reading at home. You do not need to ask all of them every time — just choose one or two that fit naturally with the book your child is reading.



Understanding words

- What do you think this word means in this sentence?
- What does this word tell us about the character, setting or atmosphere?



Finding information

- What happened when ____?
- What can you find out about ____ from the text?



Summarising

- Can you tell me what has happened in this paragraph or chapter?
- How would you sum up this part of the text?



Reading between the lines

- What makes you think ____? What evidence can you find?
- How do you think ____ is feeling? What tells you that?



Predicting

- What do you think will happen next? Why?
- Based on what you know so far, how might the character react?



Thinking about the text

- Why do you think the author included this part?
- How does the way the text is organised help the reader?



Author's choices

- Why do you think the author chose the word ____?
- How does this word or phrase make the reader feel?



Comparing

- How has the character changed from the beginning of the text?
- How are these two characters, settings or events similar or different?



Top tip: Encourage your child to explain how they know and to point to the part of the text that helped them answer.

