

20th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Home reading initiative

At Swanmore we run a very successful infant home reading initiative in which the children work towards earning a series of coloured badges and culminates in being awarded a book from Mr Paterson. We have been thrilled with the uptake from the children and are pleased to share the following data from each class last year.

Year Group 2022-23	Rainbow badge- read at least 4 times a week all year long	Purple badge and book- read at least 4 times a week for most of the year	Black badge- read at least 4 times a week for at least two thirds of the year.
YR	48/56 - 86 %	51/56 -91%	54/56 - 96%
Y1	48/60 - 80%	54/60 - 90%	56/60 - 90%
Y2	27/58 - 47%	37/57- 65%	46/57 - 81%
All Infants	123/174- 71%	142/173 – 82%	156/173 – 90%

A huge well done to the children and a massive thank you to parents in Year 3 for your regular support at home with reading last year. We cannot stress how vital the skill of reading is to enable the children to access all aspects of school life. The number of children last year in Year 2 who participated had dropped significantly since Year R. This year we are extending this scheme into Year 3 in an attempt to continue to highlight the importance we place, as a school on the value of regular reading at home. Instead of badges the children will work towards earning a scented gel pen every 6 weeks, culminating in receiving a book from Mr Paterson. **This academic year I am aiming for 100% of Year 3 children reading at least 4 times a week all year long in order get their book!**

As a school we have spent an enormous amount of time, energy and money promoting a love of reading and we are striving to develop a daily habit of reading for our children. Our insistence is a mark of how much we value reading and how deeply we care that no child will leave our school unable to read. Please continue to support this initiative. We want to see the children moving towards their goal of achieving the next pen and it is as disappointing for us as it is for the children when they are the only child in their reading group not to get their stamp/sticker on their bookmark. Please remember it has to be 4 reads at home in a week, signed by an adult to qualify.

Yours sincerely

J Hughes
Early Reading and Phonics Lead