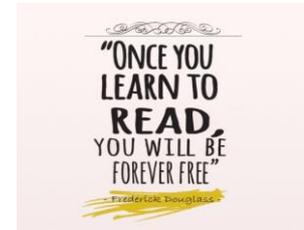


Homework –

Friday 31st January 2020



Mrs Slater



Dear Parent/Carer

The quotation above, “Once you learn to read, you will be forever free” was written by Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) and is a fantastic statement about **why we read...** People who can read well can access anything in the world and they can be anything in the world – and what we all should want for our children is opportunity to **choose for themselves**. People who read well have choices – people who cannot read well have very few choices, and few life chances.

As I was listening to the radio this morning, I heard that the best universities in this country have been forced to take more of the ‘deprived’ children of this country (Conisbrough is a deprived area). At the moment, Oxford takes fifteen children from well-off areas for every child from a deprived area – which is basically why there is a lack of social mobility in the country: the rich kids get to the best universities and then get the best jobs whereas the poor kids go to wherever they can and don’t have access to the best jobs. Luckily, chances for children from places like Conisbrough, Mexborough, Rotherham and so are improving, but we still have to be ready for them and we still have to educate our children to the highest standards if we are to take the opportunities that are given.

The teachers at this school know that no matter what we do in school, we desperately need parents to take an **active interest in reading** with their children to give them the boost they need. We, as teachers, take every opportunity to encourage parents to read with children – right up to Y6 – because we know the value of that experience. How fantastic for parents to be reading **to children** or **with children**, explaining words and asking questions and so on; it is a really valuable experience.

And yet, we have many children who don’t have their reading records filled in for week after week, or have just one or two records made a week: this is terrible, it is not going to help our children to succeed. I would **appeal to parents** to find the time to read with their children every day – a book before bedtime would be ideal, and if not every day, then often. I read with my children every day because once it becomes irregular, it can tend to get forgotten. Every day for a few minutes is not a big commitment seeing as we are setting our children up for life...

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery and had to self-teach in order to learn to read. He escaped his masters and found freedom – but he knew that freedom came from education, he knew that he was still a slave until he had the means to make his way into the world. That is all we want for any of our children – freedom of choice.

Please use the comment box below to write anything you have to say about the homework or about any other school issues...

Signed:

Please make sure that your child’s medical details and emergency contact numbers are with the office and up-to-date.

