

# **Scoil Bhríde**

## **Stillbrook, Mountrath**

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **GUIDED READING**

*“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go” (Dr. Seuss).*

Children in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> classes are involved in a guided reading programme in school. As you know our BOM invested a large amount of money in graded readers for our school. This ensures that each girl is reading at her own level. Guided reading is an approach to teaching reading where teachers can facilitate the teaching of reading to smaller groups of children of similar ability, while independent learning stations are happening in classrooms. Activities at these learning stations might include for example: free writing, grammar work, comprehensions strategies, visual literacy, response reading etc.

### **What are the benefits of guided reading**

- Children develop as individual readers while teachers are available for support and scaffolding
- Children learn skills and strategies that will allow them to read difficult texts independently
- Children experience success in reading for meaning
- Children become more fluent readers
- Children learn to critically think about the text they are reading
- Children are encouraged to use their prior knowledge and experience and apply it to the text
- Children receive more individualised teaching time.

### **Suggestions on how you can help your child at home**

- Set aside time at home to sit with your daughter and talk to her about the book she is reading
- Listen to your child read and read with her
- Check for understanding of text by asking relevant questions
- Isolate/pick out individual words she may have difficulty with and check for meaning, asking her to put the word into her own sentence

- Remind her how illustrations in text supports the meaning of the text
- Identify with her the elements of a story eg., setting, characters, problem, events and resolution
- Identify the main ideas of the story – orally summarise what she has read
- Encourage her to listen to audio books as a way to model appropriate fluency
- Encourage her to make connections between what she is reading and her own background knowledge or experiences
- Encourage her to read aloud to younger siblings
- Encourage her to keep her own reading log (sheet in folder with book)
- Enjoy the time reading with her. *“Everyone is a reader...some just haven’t found their favourite book yet”* (Frank Sereafini).

### **SCHOOL SUPPORT**

You are always welcome to talk to me about your daughter’s reading progress, do not hesitate to contact me if you need any clarification/guidance on how you can help at home. I would be grateful if you could remind your daughter to keep the reader clean and in good condition while she is using it.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

*Michelle Thompson (3<sup>rd</sup> Class Teacher)*

*Mary Rohan (4<sup>th</sup> Class Teacher)*

*Claire Whelan (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class Teacher)*