

First Minister's Reading Challenge

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our school has signed up to take part in the First Minister's Reading Challenge, an exciting new reading initiative for children in Primary 1-7, delivered by Scottish Book Trust on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Your child will receive a Reading Passport to keep track of their reading journey during the Challenge. There is space for them to fill in their thoughts about a book when they record it in their passport; this could be a few sentences, a picture or they can simply leave it blank and colour in a number of stars to show how much they enjoyed it. They will have the opportunity to create their own reading challenges, as well as taking part with the wider school community.

What can we do at home?

Encouraging a love of reading is really important for children, so have a look at the hints and tips on the Reading Challenge website. Little things you can do to support your child include:

- Signing up and visiting the library together
- Discussing your favourite books
- Making time for quiet reading

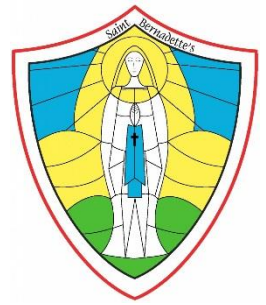
Scottish Book Trust have also put together some book recommendations to help children start their reading journey. You can search through these together on the website where there are over 300 titles, as well as book lists submitted by from children's writers, well-known public figures, learning professionals and more.

When does the Reading Challenge take place?

The First Minister's Reading Challenge was officially launched on 4th September 2017. The Challenge will run until May 2018 and there will be a prize giving ceremony for winners of the national prizes in June 2018. We're excited to be taking part and hope that you can join in the fun too!

Thanks

Mrs Irwin



First Minister's Introduction

I love reading. I have loved reading all of my life.

As long as I can remember – on car journeys and rainy school holidays – I've needed no excuse to delve into a book. These days, I have less time, but I know that reading inspired me during my childhood. And I know what a love of reading led to in terms of opportunities in my life.

So, I want to try and make sure more children get that opportunity too with the First Minister's Reading Challenge. From this autumn, Scottish Book Trust will encourage children in schools across Scotland to go on their own reading journeys and challenge themselves to explore different types of books. My hope is that the First Minister's Reading Challenge will play a big part in encouraging children to catch the bug for reading. If they do, we hope they'll keep reading for life.

Research shows that reading for fun and personal enjoyment is hugely important for a child's success at school, which is why I am especially delighted that every child in Primaries 4 to 7 will have the opportunity to take part, further their reading skills, and hopefully develop a life-long passion of their own.

This is the start of something I want to see grow and grow in the years ahead.

I really hope you all get the chance to be involved in the First Minister's Reading Challenge. Happy reading everyone!

*Nicola Sturgeon
First Minister*