



Hazlehurst Community Primary School

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Newsletter Number 18

Dear Parent / Carer,

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Friends' Association Meeting to plan the Family Treasure Hunt on 15 June. I am sure we are going to have another great evening together. Thanks also to the helpers who organised our recent plant sale – the event raised £212 for school and we were also able to order about £100-worth of bedding plants for the school planters. Well done! Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7 June at 7.00 pm. Please come along and help us to plan the summer fair (30 June). This is a big event and we need lots of volunteers!

We have recently heard that our Year 5 girls' football team have been invited to represent Bury in the Greater Manchester Summer Games, which are being held at the Etihad stadium in July. This is a wonderful achievement and we are very proud of our talented young athletes! More details will be sent home as soon as they are available.

Reading Is Fun!

We are very pleased with our reading standards at Hazlehurst. The vast majority of children make excellent progress thanks to the skills and enthusiasm of the teachers and the strong partnership between home and school. Good attainment in reading provides access to the rest of the school curriculum as well as providing a life-long source of pleasure and entertainment.



Unfortunately, a small minority of parents appear to be confused about how we support reading and the role of individual reading books within the learning process, so let me briefly clarify our approach. Reading skills are taught to the whole class during English lessons using a range of strategies. During the lessons, the children also read graded books, at their own level, in groups, in 'guided reading' sessions. In addition, the children have 'home readers', which go home each night for sharing with parents on a one-to-one basis. This part of learning to read is crucially important and we want to ensure that all children have the opportunity to read regularly to an adult in this way. This is why we encourage you to sign the reading record books so that we can provide support and encouragement wherever it is needed. Some of our teachers sometimes give up the first 5 or 10 minutes of their lunch break to listen to children read their 'home readers' – this is not a formal school 'policy', but simply something that good teachers have always done because they want to ensure that *all* children are making good progress. I have recently heard the bizarre claim that this is a 'punishment'. Nothing could be further from the truth and it is insulting to the professionalism of the staff to criticise them for wanting to help children to develop this crucial life skill.

I am confident that this approach will be understood for what it is by the vast majority of parents of the school, and of course, you are welcome to get in touch with me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

M Golding
Headteacher

