



SOUTHFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

Summer reading—it's important! Research shows that kids who read four or more books over the summer are better prepared for the coming school year and do not go down the 'summer slide'—the loss of reading and learning skills during the summer break. Reading over the summer months really does make a difference to your child's learning.

Here are five easy ways you can help your child reduce summer reading loss:

- **Make reading important.**
Be a role-model for reading. Let your child see you reading throughout the day and use daily routines as reading opportunities. Cooking, reading TV listings, looking for information on-line, reading directions, or following a map all provide authentic reading experiences.
- **Give your child the power of choice.**
Having reading materials available is key to helping kids love to read, and the reading materials kids choose themselves are best. In fact, 92% of children and teens say they are more motivated to read and are more likely to finish a book they have picked out. Help your child find texts that appeal to his or her interests, yet are age appropriate and 'just right' in difficulty.
- **Set aside time to read every day.**
We know that the more kids read, the better they become at reading and the more they will enjoy reading. During the summer, encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes per day. Make reading 'down-time'—an opportunity for family members to read together, either aloud or quietly to themselves. Keep track of progress by recording book titles, pages read, and minutes spent.
- **Talk it up.**
Talking about books during and after reading helps improve comprehension. Encourage kids to share their ideas and opinions by asking open-ended questions. Talk about what you read to let them know that reading is an important part of your life. Tell them why you liked a book, what you learned from it, or how it helped you— soon they might start doing the same.
- **Be part of a reading challenge.**
Most local libraries have summer reading programs that help engage and motivate readers. Kids set a goal, track books they read, and receive incentives for achieving goals. Summer programs also promote reading club opportunities where children can discuss and share books with others, either on-line or in-person. You can even create your own family reading challenge.



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Our summer reading challenge is this:
Can you fly around the world in one summer?

The rules;

- For every 1 signature you can fly to a new country.
- You must fly to the countries in the same order as below.
- To fly out of a continent you need 2 signatures.
- Collect your signatures from the 22nd July 2016 until 4th September 2016
- Next to each country have the signature and the date.
- You can read as many times a day, but you have to read the amount which is suitable for your level, for example if you are a free reader one page is not sufficient.
- You must have signatures; these can be from Mum, Dad, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, older siblings etc.
- You don't have to always read fiction, non – fiction such as magazines and newspapers are fine, as well as online books and research. Any form of reading is good and in fact a wide range of reading is even better!
- We will all start again when we begin school in September in our reading passports – this is a separate challenge!

Not enough books at home? Use any of the Swindon libraries or take part in a book swap over the holidays with your friends.

Will you be reading in any interesting places or countries take some pictures and either email them to you class teacher or bring them into school in September, we can put your snaps on display. Will you be reading in any of the countries below – take a photo!

Bring this letter back into school on 5th September and your class teacher will look at all of the sheets and the children who fly around the world **will be rewarded with a book token.**

A copy of this letter is on the website and if you have any questions please don't hesitate any teacher.

Happy reading and happy flying!

The countries go in this order.

