



# Latchmere Academy Trust

## A parent/carer guide

### Reading Journals

- 1) Reading Journals are an important window into your child's reading. It is extremely useful for the teacher to know what is being read and how often. The teacher can then engage in a dialogue with the child about their reading.
- 2) **Tracking titles (1)** – over time, a picture builds up of a child's reading. The teacher can reference books read to make comparisons between them with the child. For example, this character is similar to the one in the book you read earlier in the spring term. Let's discuss that. By tracking titles, the teacher will also be able to make recommendations such as other books by the same author or books of a similar genre by a different author. For example, a child who likes fantasy who is reading the Harry Potter series may then like a different type of fantasy story by Abi Elphinstone.
- 3) **Tracking titles (2)** – If a child is overly reliant on an author or style of book, the teacher may intervene to suggest alternative literature. Our intention is that children have a varied diet of reading. Some children just read fiction so the teacher may gently suggest dipping into some non-fiction titles which may interest the child.
- 4) **Reading age appropriate material** – it's important for the teacher to check that a child is reading material which is age appropriate. If a text is too challenging both in length, content and vocabulary, the child may not read the book fluently enough to gain the best understanding of it. In this instance, the teacher would carefully guide the child to appropriate reading matter.
- 5) **Vocabulary** – reading journals are an excellent way in which children can record vocabulary. They can write interesting word choices or phrases in their reading journal and use these in their writing during lessons.
- 6) **Parent/carer comments** – we welcome comments in the reading journal from anyone at home who has read with a child. This lets the teacher know that regular reading is taking place.

