

Pupil conferencing 9.10.18

Reading Pentathlon

In attendance:

Mrs Daniels

2 pupils per class (total of 16)

Pupils volunteered themselves and were chosen by teachers to represent a range of reading abilities and with a range of views about the Pentathlon

Discussion:

What do the children like about the Reading Pentathlon?

- A good range of activities that they enjoy doing
- It motivates them to read more if they are working towards a certificate
- They like sharing what they have done in library time
- Better than writing down in a reading log every time you have read

What are the issues with the Reading Pentathlon/what don't the children like?

- Some children in the school choose books that are not challenging enough just to race through tasks
- Not all classes have had a chance to share tasks/reviews of books with their class
- Some feel that they have to do the tasks and it puts them off reading
- Some are not motivated by certificates
- The activities could be better – some are not very interesting
- There is nowhere to list the books you have read – teachers don't see what you've achieved
- Some pupils have been told they can only do each task once but if they enjoy it they might want to repeat it for a different book

How can we make it better? Mrs Daniels made some suggestions:

- Make it clear to all pupils and parents that children do not have to do any of the tasks in the booklet and all the school wants is for children to be reading regularly
- Put a list in the front of the booklet for children to record when they have finished a book – teachers can award team merits for this regardless of whether a task has been completed or not
- There is a maximum of 1 task per week to be completed – so children will slow down and not race through to get certificates
- Make it clear that tasks may be repeated for a different book (but this would have to be within reason!)

Pupil responses to these ideas:

- Concern that a maximum of 1 task is not enough – maybe 2 per week would be better?
- Pupils don't want to go back to reading logs (writing a list of books you have read sounds like what we used to do)
- Can teachers set individuals a target of how many tasks to complete depending on what 'type' of reader they are?

- Children might still choose less challenging books to race through despite the limit of 1 or 2 tasks per week
- It would be good for pupils to be able to have an input into the design of some of the tasks so it encourages them to do their own task or those designed by their friends (Mrs Daniels thinks this is a brilliant idea but we would have to do this for next year when we could re-design the booklet)

Conclusions - we agreed that:

- The school must communicate very clearly with all pupils, parents and staff to make sure everyone gets the same message and that pupils understand that they should all be reading quality texts that are suitably challenging. They should also be encouraged to produce quality pieces if they are completing tasks from the booklet

If Mrs Daniels makes the changes we have discussed, then 13/16 pupils believe this will make the Reading Pentathlon better and will work for more pupils to encourage reading. 1 child said they already enjoy it and abstained from the vote. 2 children were still concerned about having to list the books they have read.