



11 November 2022

To: Subject Advisors, Teachers, Circuit Managers, principals, parents, church leaders, School Management Teams, and Departmental Heads.

Topic: Sharing various ways of promoting independent reading during the festive season.

Message Objective are to:

- Help parents promote reading during the festive season
- Encourage learners to read independently
- Inculcate the culture of independent reading

As we are drawing towards the end of the year, it is important that we use the festive season to promote reading in communities. Strong readers are those who can read and analyse a diverse range of texts. It is important for learners/children to indulge in independent, self-selected reading both in and out of the classroom. Below is a list of ways to encourage children to read for pleasure as well as tips on facilitating an independent reading culture.

1. Library visits

Even if there is a collection of books in homes, a trip to the local library is a good way to provide additional reading opportunities for children. With some new reading materials, children may be more likely to identify a good book. Younger children benefit from fun picture books with simple words, while a new series maybe more intriguing for more experienced children. No matter the child's reading level, parents may find books that elicit excitement and interest at the library.

2. Collect holiday – themed books

Some families have a collection of books that they take out only during the holiday season. Some maybe summer-themed or based around a holiday. No matter the content, these books seem like new each year when they are brought out of storage. After reading a fun holiday book, children can try reading comprehension activities, such as retelling the story, to ensure they understand what they have just read.

3. Parents should consider giving reading resources as gifts

If parents have not already, they should add books to their children's gift list. Once the holidays are over and before school has started back up again, their children may be bored.

4. Effective use of time

The holiday break is perfect for spending time together as family. During this time, parents can find time to teach their children and learn together. If a parent needs to make a trip to the grocery store, they should allow their children to help them with grocery list. When travelling to family members' homes, parents can encourage their children to read signs along the way. One best gift a parent can give to his/her children is a strong education.

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