

June 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

## Reading for Pleasure

Here at Habs, we strongly believe that one of the most important things in a child's early education is reading for pleasure. We recommend that prior to your son starting Habs, you continue to build the habit of reading to him daily, at the same time as encouraging him to look at picture books independently.

We do not give prescriptive booklists in the Pre-Prep School as we believe that each child has their own individual reading tastes and should be choosing their own reading material, which will then motivate them to read.

Instead, we encourage visits to libraries and bookshops to access as wide a range of books as possible. However, we also recognise that it's helpful to have some guidance. We recommend the following authors of high-quality picture books as a starting point:

Rob Biddulph, Nathan Bryon, Benjy Davies, Rebecca Cobb, Joseph Coelho, Kes Gray, Mini Grey, Sue Hendra, Oliver Jeffers, Nicola O'Byrne, Ed Vere, and classics by Julia Donaldson, Judith Kerr, Shirley Hughes, Jill Murphy, Dr Seuss, Michael Bond.

We would also encourage you to explore the following with your son:

- Read fairy and folk tales from different cultures and ancient mythologies
- Browse periodicals at the local library, such as Storybox or Storytime
- Read age-appropriate non-fiction such as Usborne Firsts or Lift the Flap
- Poetry

Lastly, if your child is anxious about starting school, good texts to address this include:

- Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall
- The Lion Inside by Rachel Bright
- The Colour Monster Goes to School by Anna Llenas
- I Am Too Absolutely Small for School by Lauren Child
- I have to Start at School Today by Simon Philip
- The Friendship Bench by Wendy Meddour
- When a Dragon Goes to School by Caryl Hart

We look forward to welcoming your son to the Habs library!

Yours faithfully.

Mrs Clare Zinkin  
**Pre-Prep Library**

