This academic year the curriculum focus at Shanklea is reading. As part of this all staff are participating in further training and research to ensure we are doing everything we can to provide your children with the best start on their journey to mature independent readers. We have also taken the views of both children and parents into account through recent homework and reading questionnaires.

It is clear through all this work that enjoyment of reading is crucial to a child’s development. Whilst we are certain of the role of the school reading scheme in helping pupils to learn to decode and practise skills, we also feel strongly as a staff of the importance of sharing other books, in particular those the child has chosen.

As a result of this we have decided to trial a change to the reading system in school. Between now and Christmas pupils will continue to read the scheme. However every few books your child will be allowed to choose a book from their classroom to *share* at home. It would not be expected that the pupil would read this book independently, rather that the family, carers would share it/ read it with the child. The discussion that takes place during the sharing of the book has been shown to help children develop greater comprehension skills and we hope will improve the enjoyment for all taking part. We would like this book to be recorded in their record as usual and comments about the experience added in.

As we are trialling this we would appreciate your thoughts and views about this change. If you have any queries about this please feel free to talk to your child’s class teacher or Mrs Baxter.