

Description: Students are expected to read at least 40 books during the school year. They record their own reading. This list is discussed in reading interviews with the teacher.

Why: The more children read, the better readers they become. If we set a goal of at least 1 book per school week, we are encouraging students to read more and develop reading rigor.

How:

- The program starts in reception with the teachers encouraging the students to take home **the 40 book recording booklet** and read and record with their parents.
- Booklets are used in the school up to year 4, and students from 4-7 have their own chrome books in which they record their book titles.
- The reading lists are an important part of the reader interviews. It shows how much and what the students are reading. Teachers can see if students need extending to try a different author or genre, or if they are selecting a 'Just Right' book.
- To aid with the recording, the catalogue and student borrowing records are available on chrome books, library computers and library iPads. There is a difference between what is borrowed and what is read. It is normal for a reader not to read or complete everything they have borrowed.
- Many teachers also have a rating system and encourage the students to rate each of the books read with a small comment or star system.
- The '40 Book Challenge' can start in the summer holidays. In fact students (years 3-7 especially) are encouraged to borrow and read in all holiday periods. We delete student borrowing history up to the school holidays and the students can start reading for the next year as soon as they finish school.
- The PRC list is included in the '40 Book' list.
- Even the students who do not manage to complete the '40 Book Challenge' might still read 20 books that they might not have read. It's about improving your own reading.

Frequency:

- This program is for all of the school year including the holidays. It does not stop, as we don't want students to slide backwards over long holiday breaks. Reading is not just for school time. We want to develop life-long readers who always have a book on the go.

Impact:

This has certainly increased our borrowing over the years. For example, from February to mid October this year (2017), our school population of 500 students have borrowed 37,000 books. Students are very keen to borrow for the holidays and it is not unusual to get 1,000 returned books on the first day of term. Large numbers of students complete and exceed the '40 Book Challenge'. In 2015, 15 of the 17 classes achieved 80%–100% success with the '40 Book Challenge'.

Links:

Miller, Donalyn, *The Book Whisperer*, San Francisco, John Wiley and Sons, 2009
Miller, Donalyn, *Reading in the Wild*, San Francisco, John Wiley and Sons, 2014
Miller, Donalyn, *The 40 Book Challenge*, <https://bookwhisperer.com/2014/08/12/the-40-book-challenge-revisited/>