



Children can benefit hugely by exposure to books from early age and in the classroom and we provide lots of opportunities for children to engage with a variety of books that fire imagination and interest. We encourage children to choose and look at books freely as well as sharing them with others. We also make sure we have lots of story time which all the children love!



Your children have already begun their journey of learning to read and have been choosing books from school and sharing picture books. These books have allowed the children opportunities to hold books carefully, turn pages, start by looking from left to right, tell stories, make predictions and prepare them for reading.



The children will continue to choose a few books of interest from the classroom each week to share at home. This will hopefully maintain their enthusiasm for a range of books and lead them to see books as a source of pleasure and motivate them to value reading.

READING BOOKS

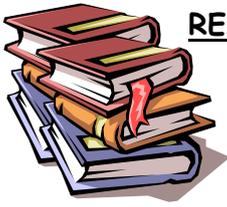
Your child will be bringing home a variety of **Phonics reading books** (with decodable words) and other individual reading books each week.

We will start with a few reading books a week initially.

Support your child by 'Sounding out' each word and blending for reading. Demonstrate for them to try until they get the hang of it. Please keep the book and read a few times to allow your child to be confident and, in some cases, independent. Look at the pictures and discuss what you can see happening or think about what will happen.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

- We will also start some group reading books over time. (These books mostly have words that are non-decodable) Children will begin by sharing one book a week in a group and we will start to read key words from the text or speech bubbles.
- Please allow your child to hold their book and turn the pages, encouraging them to start reading from left to right. There may be parts for an adult to read and text or speech bubbles for your child to try. Please model and encourage your child to point to each word. Demonstrate reading the words and encourage your child to join in with you until they can have a go on their own.
- Talk about the pictures, giving them time to look and discuss the story and what they can see. Ask questions to encourage them to talk about what they think might happen.
- 'Sound out' simple words and blend together, eg, c-a-t..... - cat, demonstrating for your child how they can do it. Other words are tricky and will be learnt by word recognition with lots of practice. Always demonstrate to your child to using the strategy of 'sounding out' first.
- Share other books with your child and look at different print all around - signs, notices, shops, food labels etc.. This supports them in gaining understanding that words have meaning and are not just in books from school. Please try and be patient and encouraging and any worries, let me know!



READING PACK - WORD WALLS

Children will be given a word wall for words that they need to learn in Foundation Stage. These words will be High frequency words and Tricky words.

They will have two envelopes, one for 'Words that I am learning' and another for 'Words that I can read'. Please start to help your child learn these words that are put in the envelope. When you feel that your child is confident and consistent recognising and reading a word on their flash cards, word wall and in their books then please put it in the 'Words I can read' envelope. This will help us to see how your child is getting on. The words in both envelopes need to be regularly referred to, to ensure that children are confident and consistent.

When your child reads all the words from their word wall we will then move on to new words.

To support learning the words throughout the week you could:

- Play bingo with the words on the word walls, 'Have you got the word in?'
- Match word cards to words you might find in books
- Make silly a silly sentence to read using the word cards
- Match the word cards to build the word wall
- Make your own word cards to decorate and put up at home where they can be seen regularly
- Look out for the words all around



Please keep the reading books and envelopes in book bags for when we need to use them at school. Please tick, sign or comment when the book has been shared at home in the reading record book.

To ensure that children stay excited and enthusiastic about reading, please spend 5 to 10 minutes on reading homework when you can, as short bursts of regular quality reading practice will be beneficial for your child.

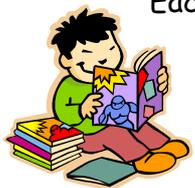
LETTERS AND SOUNDS

Each week your child will also be given a -

- 'Letters and Sounds book' - To practise letter formation.
- **Individual letter cards and simple words** - These will reinforce the letter sounds that we are learning at school and the words will be made from these sounds. Using these will expand on their phonic knowledge and reading ability. You will also have a copy of the actions that we use from Jolly Phonics to support learning the sounds that letters make.



Each child will progress at their own rate and with so much involved in learning to read it is a very gradual process. Any concerns or questions please come and have a chat or write a note in the reading record diary and I will try to help.



Just to add... In my experience regular support from home does increase children's confidence and reading ability immensely!

Thank you for all of your support,

Miss Waters and Mrs Salisbury