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Dear Parents/Carers,

Reading is a skill we continue to develop throughout our lives, but starting this process as early as possible has significant benefits for our continued success as readers. This is why, as parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming a fluent reader who is confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their lives.

The teaching of reading and reading comprehension within the classroom is only part of a child's learning, and the value that is given to reading at home is equally important. Research suggests that children who read regularly outside of school perform significantly better in school assessments and enjoy reading more, so your support at home is essential in ensuring that your child makes the progress they are capable of.

You can help your child to achieve their full potential by listening to them read daily (for about 10/15minutes), reading regular bedtime stories and by encouraging them to enjoy reading and sharing books together. Reading widely through all of these approaches will help develop your child's vocabulary, which in turn will make them more confident when reading more challenging books.

Giving your child a choice over what they read is an important factor in boosting their enthusiasm for reading and children are more likely to be interested in books they have selected for themselves. Your local library is an incredibly useful resource in providing regular reading material for your child and best of all – it's free!

<u>Reading at home</u>

To help us track how much reading your child is doing at home, it is important that you write: the book's title; page numbers read; and a brief comment when you listen to them read. Also, once a week sign their reading record. Please see the example provided.

In KS1 and KS2 you must write a comment at least 3 x per week.

In Reception class you must complete the two Floppy's Phonics Activity Sheets (mainly reading based) and write a comment/sign their reading record at least 1 x per week.

Your support with reading at home is essential and only by working together can we ensure your child achieves their potential as a reader.

Home Reading books across school

In Reception class, children take home a keyring with phonics sounds/words to decode on, then later in the year a decodable book. Please listen to your child practise the phonics sounds/read the words on their keyrings and later read their reading book.

In Class 1 and 2, children take home a decodable book. Please listen to your child read this book.

In KS2, some children take home a decodable book or a banded book that supports them in their reading until they become more confident readers. Please listen to your child read this book.

In KS2, once they are more confident readers, they take home a library book (see below). Please listen to your child read this book. They may also read a book from home however please make sure your child reads a wide variety of books and not the same book or the same author all of the time.

Across school, all children take home a reading for pleasure book they have chosen from the library. Please share this book with your child e.g. read the story to your child (see information below) discuss the content etc.

Rereading books

All the decodable books and banded books are read in school first and then reread at home. Rereading books is very important. Across school we encourage children to reread books to practise their reading skills and become more fluent. Therefore, rereading their decodable or banded books at home will support your child to become a more skilled reader.

Tips for reading stories to children

How to read a story to your child

If you can find the time beforehand, read the read-aloud book to yourself first, so you can think about how you're going to read it to your child.

On the first reading:

• Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.

• Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets…'

• Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.

• Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.

Read favourite stories over and over again. On later readings:

• Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.

• If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that…'

• Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to…'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'

• Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when …'

• Link stories to others that your child knows: ‘Ah! Do you remember the dragon in ….? Do you remember what happened to him?’

• Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.

• Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.

• Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them.

If you require any further guidance regarding reading, please ask your child’s class teacher.

To help you and your child(ren) make appropriate choices about the books they read, there is a link to a website called books for topics on our school website. The website has lists by age, topic, season etc. It is a great place to find new books to read and share with your children. The link is also below.

https://www.booksfortopics.com/

Thank you for your continued support and happy reading!

Mrs West