

Dear Parents/Carers

Reading Support Letter

We have had a very busy September in Reception. We have made lots of new friends, learnt new routines and have started to learn our letter sounds. We have also been sharing lots of books in school.

Recently all the children had the opportunity to choose and bring home a school library book. This is a book for you to share with your child/children and this may be a book that they are unable to read and therefore is an opportunity for you to share this book together. When sharing a book, please spend time looking at the pictures, making predictions about what you think is going to happen in the story. Is it a fiction/non-fiction text? These books will be changed on a weekly basis, but if you wish to keep the same book for longer than a week, please just let your class teacher know.



We are also beginning to send home reading scheme books for you to share with your child. We believe that parents play a vital role in helping their child learn to read, and helping children make progress in reading is most successful when it is done in partnership between home and school. Any support you can give your child will improve their progress.

We appreciate that parents and other adults are more than willing to offer their support, but may sometimes be unsure on how to go about it. Here are some tips and advice which we hope you will find useful, but please feel free to come and speak to us if you have any concerns.

How often should you hear your child read?

When a child is first learning to read they need as much practice as possible. In Reception, we would recommend your child reads out loud to you each day for 5-10 minutes.

Please write a comment in the reading log every time you share a book with your child.



How can you help at home?

- Find a quiet place free from distractions.
- Spend time discussing the front cover, title blurb (information about the book) before you open the book- *what do you think this book is about?*
- Encourage your child to hold the book correctly and turn the pages one at a time.
- If your child brings home a book with no words, look at the pictures, talk about what they can see. What is happening in the pictures? What do they think is going to happen next? Can they identify anything in the pictures containing sounds they have learnt so far? What sounds would the characters be able to hear (animals, transport etc)? Until your child is confident enough, use the pictures to create a story narrative.
- If your child has a book with simple words, help and support your child if they get stuck on any words. Encourage them to solve the words by:
 - Sounding out the letter sounds.
 - Using the picture clues.
 - Using the context of the story to work it out - what would make sense?
- Ask your child questions to check their understanding of the text.
 - What was your favourite part of the story?
 - Was there anything you didn't like?
 - What do you think might happen next?
 - What would have happened if . . . ?
 - What can you tell me about the characters in the story?
 - Can you tell me the story in your own words?

The most important thing is you give your child lots of praise and encouragement. It takes lots of practice to learn to read and it should be a fun and enjoyable experience.

We will hear your children read every week and we will change their reading books once a week once we have read with them, so please ensure the reading books are kept in their book bags every day.

If you have any other questions about how to support your child with reading at home, please come and speak to your child's class teacher.