



### Promoting a love of reading

During your child's time at our school we strive to install all children with a love of reading and to build them to be fluent by the end of Key Stage 1. Each fortnight, the children will have the opportunity to visit the school library and choose a library book to read at home. Your child will have a set day to change their book so please ensure their library book is in their book bag ready to change. (This information will be all be on the curriculum letter). Each half term, the children will learn about a popular author and will enjoy hearing a range of their stories. We encourage you to visit your local library and look for books written by the chosen author. There will be Reading Challenges along the way to help motivate your little ones at home. Look out for 'Mask Reader' challenges on Google Classroom where a mystery teacher will read a story for your little ones to guess.

### Reading books

This year your little one will be able to take home a reading book every week to read at home. These books are an exact colour match to the books we currently use in school. This means the words in the book will contain the sounds they are learning in class and will enable them to consolidate learning at home. Please practise this book several times so that your child is confident and can answer questions about what they've read. Your child will receive a reading book on Monday and will be collected in on Friday. Reading at home should be a pleasurable experience and a chance for your child to consolidate what they've learnt and show off their new skills. If your child would like an additional book to read, in their colour, they will be able to continue using Rising Stars. This year all the coloured books will be available for your child to enjoy.

**Reading Diary** Your child will be given a reading diary to record reading at home. Each time you read with your little one at home, please sign in here. If your child can read at least 3 times during a week at home, they will be given a point and the class with the most reading points, will earn a new story for their class book corner area. The winning class will be communicated on the newsletter each week. Your child's class teacher will communicate how they are getting on and set targets twice per half term. Your child's class teacher will look out for regular reading at home and Marvellous Me for great effort and participation. **Please ensure your child's reading diary/ book is always in their book bag otherwise they will not be able to get a new book for the week.**

### Reading Assessment

Your child's class teacher will listen to your child read in the first two weeks and decide which is the best colour for their reading level. This may mean your child might move back a colour but please try not to worry. It is important that the books the children read are closely matched to their phonic knowledge to enable them to practise fluency. Your child will be given a reading book for the week and reading diary with their first targets. The progression of the colour sequence is on our school website. Remember children progress at different times and rates so please try not to compare your child against their peers.



**Bedtime Stories** Reading bedtime stories is not only a great way to establish a night time routine, but can also help to promote a lifetime love of reading for your child. Through hearing stories, children develop their language and communication and this improves many areas of



their learning. Look out for a workshop by Karen Allen later this half term on 'Reading Bedtime Stories'.



. Applying phonics to reading Within daily phonics sessions, your child will continue to learn new and alternative letter/sound recognition through phonics, and we continue to encourage this as their first strategy when reading unfamiliar words. Every day they will do 'Guided Reading'. This is where they will complete reading activities across the week in small groups. They will have 1 teacher led session across the week and then complete follow up activities to support learning in the other sessions. In Year 2 children, in the Spring term, will move to whole class reading sessions.



### Word Lists

To consolidate your child's blending skills, we will send home lists of words concentrating on the sounds your child is currently learning. A couple of minutes on sound recognition or spelling rules before reading each day can really help boost your child's confidence. The children will continue to learn more words which cannot be phonetically decoded and these words will be included in the lists. We will share the weekly spelling lists so that children can practise recognition and add to their fluency. They will also be expected to spell these words.



Tracking text Please encourage your child to point at the words (in the book or on the screen) they are reading as long as they need to, and continue to help your child break up words that they find hard to blend. As your child becomes more confident, they will be able to track text with their eyes, and begin to scan ahead within sentences.

### Top tips

- Please encourage your child to read their coloured book several times across the week. A short burst of 5- 10 minutes each day is great. Remember to ask them questions to check they have understood what they've read. (There are ideas for different questions on the school website). If they would like to read an additional book, you can access Rising Stars.
- Read a range of stories to your child to help promote their love of reading and to be able to retell different stories.
- Remember to read signs/ shop names/ house names etc when you are walking and visiting new places. This will help your child to begin to sight read familiar words.
- Practise reading and spelling the words sent home each week. Remember this can be fun! (look on the website for fun ideas).

Thank you for your continued support

Hannah Lubbock- Smith (English Coordinator)