

Reading at our school

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. **"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book"**. (Dr Seuss). Each half term the children will learn about a popular author and will enjoy hearing a range of stories in their story time sessions. Your child will be able to select their favourite books to read in their class reading corner. Although for this term, it will not be possible for your child to take a book home from our library, your child will continue to develop their love of literature through drama, art, storytelling and speaking and listening activities related to the books they are reading.



Changes to Reading

For this half term, it will not be possible for your little one to take home the book they are reading in class.



Therefore, to support your child's reading at home, we continue to encourage you to listen to your child reading online books. During last term, your child may have used the Oxford Owl reading site. This term, we are pleased to say your child will now have access to a new online library of books which the children read in school. 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.

How to use the online reading library Go to <https://my.risingstars-uk.com>. You will need to type in the username (this will be your child's first name and first initial of surname, e.g, **SmithJ**), the password is **qwerty** and the schools centre id is **6039784**. Each eBook features an optional audio recording (with each word highlighted as it is read) and a variety of quizzes to check your child's understanding of what they have read. There are bronze, silver and gold stars for completing the quizzes correctly. Your child's class teacher will signpost books according to the colour they are working on in class. E.g. if they are on yellow, you will have access to all the yellow books. Your child's class teacher will look out for regular reading at home and Marvellous Me for great effort and participation. At the end of this half term your child's class teacher will decide if they are ready for the next colour and then the next colour books will be available for you to read. The progression of the colour sequence is on our school website.

Reading Assessment

Your child's class teacher has listened to them read and decided which is the best colour for their current reading level. You should have received your Marvellous Me with their reading target for you to work on at home using the appropriate coloured books from the online reading app. 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 new book each week to read in school go in their learning basket. Your child's class teacher or teaching assistant will continue to listen to them read regularly in the mornings. *(This book must stay in school and will not be shared across the class at one time)*. **For now, please read daily with your child using our 'Rising stars' online library.**



Reading at home We suggest reading a book several times that week so that your child becomes more confident with their decoding. Remember there are quizzes at the end of the books the children can complete. This is a chance to check they have understood the story. (You may want to do this after they have read the book a few times). It is important to ask them questions to check they have understood what they have read. It is a great opportunity to talk about the meaning of new words too. Please also see the school website for further ideas on the types of questions to ask your child. 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. However, remember your child can still enjoy reading a range of books. 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.



Home communication

Although it will not be possible for your child's class teacher to communicate reading progress with you in a reading diary, they will MME comments twice in the first half term. There will also be a reading forum lead by the English Leader on Thursday 15th October for you to ask any questions you may have about reading with your child at home. Remember children progress at different times and rates so please try not to compare your child against their peers

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.



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. We will send home the 'common exception' lists, later in the term, 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 (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 online regularly at home. Remember to ask your child to re-read the book across the week to build confidence and to ask them questions about what they've read. A short burst of 5- 10 minutes each day is great.
- 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 will begin to sight read familiar words.
- Practise reading and spelling tricky words. Remember this can be fun!



Thank you for your continued support

Hannah Lubbock- Smith (English Coordinator)

