

# 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 "**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.



## Reading in our school

We will read regularly with your child, not only in individual reading sessions with the class teacher and teaching assistant, but also in daily phonics sessions. For this half term, it will not be possible for your little one to take home the books they are reading in class. Therefore, to support your child's reading at home, your child will have access to a new online library of books which you can access on all technical devices together. These eBooks are an exact colour match to the books we currently use in school.



This means the words in these eBooks 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**. (Your device should recognise you, so you would not need to type this in, each time you use it). 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 Pink 1, you will have access to all the Pink 1 books. Your child's class teacher will look out for regular reading at home and Marvellous Me for great effort and participation.

## Reading colour sequence

Your child will begin by reading picture books which are lilac colour books. Please discuss with your child what is happening in the story and how they think the characters are feeling, building up your child's comprehension skills and love of reading. When your child's class teacher thinks they are ready, they will progress to simple decoding books. These are Pink 1 books on our colour sequence. This is done on a 1: 1 basis based on the child's confidence, comprehension and sound recognition. Throughout the year, when the teacher feels they are ready, they will continue to progress through the colours. Remember children progress at different times and rates so please try not to compare your child against their peers **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 when 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 or noticed on the pages. 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 on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October lead by the English Leader for you to ask any questions you may have about reading with your child at home.

## Applying phonics to reading



Within daily phonics sessions, your child will begin by learning the alphabetic code of the English language. Our approach is to teach letter/sound recognition through phonics. Once they can do this, they will be taught to blend letters to read words. The children can only be expected to read books for themselves once they have developed this skill.



## 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. The children will learn words which cannot be phonetically decoded. These are called tricky words and we encourage the children to try to spot these when reading.

## Tracking text



When your child gets onto the Pink 1 books, 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. (Use actual books too).
- 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! Please see the website for fun activities and ideas.



Thank you for your continued support

Hannah Lubbock- Smith (English Coordinator)

