

A COMPLETE PHONICS RESOURCE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN

Home reading

It is essential parents and carers understand the importance of home reading and how to support their children's reading in a positive and enjoyable way. Investing time to develop reading relationships between home and school is crucial.

Schools should provide a balance of books to send home for early readers, including:

- **a reading practice book** matched to the child's phonic stage that they can read independently
 - **a sharing book** that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/carer.
- It is important that schools explain to parents/carers the difference between the child's reading practice book and the book they take home to share.

The reading practice book

It is the school's role to teach reading. However, parents/carers play a vital role, too. It is important that children have plenty of practice reading at home in order to become fluent, confident readers.

Parents' or carers' support is needed to help their child practise reading and develop fluency with a book they have already read at school. This book needs to be matched to their phonic stage and be fully decodable. If books are sent home that the child cannot decode, it will lead to frustration for the child and the parent/carer.

To ensure that reading at home is an enjoyable experience and does not feel like a chore, schools need to send home reading practice books in which the child can read 95% of the words. It does not have to be a different book every time; it may need to be the same book if the child still needs to develop fluency. Parents/carers need to be given a clear explanation as to why these reading practice books are at the right level for their child to develop fluency and are not 'too easy'.

The children should be able to read the practice book with developing confidence and fluency without any significant help. The parent/carer's role is to listen with interest and, most importantly, to encourage and praise, enthusiastically acknowledging the child's achievement (even if, at the early stages, this is only small).

After the child has read the book, it may be helpful to talk about the book, but only so far as the child is interested. The parent/carer should keep the experience positive and avoid turning it into a test.

The sharing book

If children are to become lifelong readers, it is essential that they are encouraged to read for pleasure. The desire of wanting to read will help with the skill of reading. To help foster a love of reading, children should take a book home that they can share and enjoy with their parent/carer.

Involving the children in the choice of this book is important. These books offer a wealth of opportunities for talking about the pictures and enjoying the story. It is important to offer a variety of books, including non-fiction, so they can enjoy a range of writing.

Parents/carers need to understand that they should not expect their child to read this book independently and certainly should not try to get their child to do so. The book is for the parent/carer to read to or with the child.

Again, it is good to talk about the book with the child, but important not to turn the discussion into a test. The goal is enjoyment.

Frequency of sending books home

Ideally, children should take their reading practice book and a sharing book home two or three times a week. It is essential that children have read the reading practice book at school before it is sent home. School will collect all practice books back by Thursday . Over the rest of the week children will be able to take a sharing book home.

Home reading diary

School will continue to send home a reading diary so you can record your child's reading. It would be good if you can include a comment which will help praise the home reading. Staff will check the diaries on a regular basis

Additional support for a child

If you are unable read at home then please see if another person, such as a sibling, grandparent or relative can help. The more practice the better!

School will also look at providing extra support such as reading buddies and additional group support to help your child keep up with their reading