



September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week the children will be bringing home their first set of reading books. You will notice that the books are from a range of different schemes and publishers and encourage children to use their newly acquired phonics skills. **You will now have one reading book initially on a Friday and one library book on a Tuesday.** It is vital that books are in book bags on the allocated days, ready to be taken in and changed.

We would encourage you to share, discuss and enjoy the books with your child as often as you can. Setting aside regular, quality time to read and enjoy books with your child is so important. We have included a few ideas below to promote and develop reading skills together. The books that your child will bring home will only include letter sets and tricky words that they have been taught in class, or show an understanding of when using their phonics.

When sharing a book together encourage your child to:

- Talk about who chose the book and why?
- Look at and discuss the illustrations.
- Try to predict the content. Is it a story or information book? (Look at front and back cover) Have you read a book like this before? Are there any characters you know? Do you think you will like this book?
- Attempt to 'sound out' simple words. (This can be effective for certain words but does not always work! This will depend upon the sounds they have remembered!). We want children to read for fluency so take the opportunity to go back and read the words/sentences again after decoding.
- Look for sounds they already know (s, a, t etc)

- Look at the first sound of the word (and any others they may know) and have a sensible guess!
- Look for familiar words that appear in other words, eg **bat** **cat** **that**
- Look for the tricky words that they know.
- Read on and return to any challenging words at the end of the sentence. With really difficult words it helps to get the meaning of the sentence and then go back and discuss which words would make sense. Don't worry about telling your child the word if you think it is one they will not be able to work out!
- Talk about what has happened and what might happen next.
- Return to a book to ask each other questions about it, e.g. Can you remember what happened? Who was in the story? What did we learn? Did you like the book? Why?
- Keep calm and remain positive! Remember to give lots of praise!

Have fun reading and sharing books together and many thanks for your continued support!

Thank you,

The EYFS Team