

Dear Parents and Carers,

From Monday 7th December, we will commence our first phase of sending home reading books and reading records for Years 1 - 4 and those children in the older years who are working on phonics.

There are pre-readers for the youngest children, which will consist of photocopied reading sheets, before the children proceed to the first books bands. The books concerned are from the Read Write Inc phonics teaching scheme and differentiated into colour bands based on the children's level of progress in phonics. Please note that to an adult eye, they are not always the most exciting, but they are designed to scaffold to success. The children have been taught all the sounds in the books that come home with them; however, we are very aware that this is a new start and they may take some time to build up confidence and fluency in reading. Please do encourage and support your children to sound out words, rather than guessing or interpreting from pictures.

As outlined in our Home-Learning Agreement, we would ask that you read with your child every day for around twenty minutes (this may need building up gradually) and record their progress in the reading record that will come home with them. Books will be changed in school on a regular basis. We strongly encourage reading through each book twice to build up confidence and reading fluency, so they may keep the same book for a period of several days.

We would also encourage reading to your child on a daily basis so that they experience language and stories commensurate with their understanding rather than reading prowess. There is little that surpasses the joy of parents and children sharing books together and it can be a lovely way to finish the day.

The Reception classes will start to receive reading books in the course of the January half term, on an individual basis, depending on their reading development.

Years 5 and 6 will bring home phonics books as needed, but many of them will be reading freely now and therefore beyond the programme. Reading books will start coming home from a class library next week or after Christmas depending on individual arrangements. We kindly ask that you continue to read to and with these children where possible and during and after reading ask your child questions about their text and content. Please see the attached 'Question Support' document to help with this. We have also attached some information about how the Read Write Inc reading scheme books relate to traditional reading schemes, such as Oxford Reading Tree, with which some of you may be familiar.

Please do let your class teachers know if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

Sarah-Jo Robinson

EYFS & KS1 Lead
Reading Leader