



Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find information below regarding our Phonics and Early reading programme in the Early Years and Key Stage One. A separate letter specifically about Bug Club and how you can support your child with their reading at home will also be sent. We are keen to promote reading for pleasure across school and get all children bringing home books that they have chosen from our amazing new library to share with you. In addition to this letter, I will be holding a Phonics and Early Reading meeting – more information will follow soon. We hope that you will find both the letters and meeting useful, but as always if you have any further questions please get in touch.

## Reading Books

Every week children in Reception, Year One and Year Two will bring home two books; one will be a **phonetically decodable book** and the other will be a **sharing book**. For some children they may change these more than once over the course of the week, for others, if books are longer, children may need to keep them for more than a week. In addition, all of the children have been given log in details for Bug Club and are allocated a range of books both decodable and sharing that can be accessed online.

## Phonetically decodable books

As soon as the children in Reception have settled, we begin teaching phonics. Our Phonics Programme is **Bug Club Phonics** which is linked to our **Bug Club** reading books. Children learn that each letter of the alphabet makes a sound (phoneme) and we represent this as a single or group of letters (grapheme(s)). Children need to revise the new phonemes learnt daily and apply their growing knowledge by reading books with these phonemes in.

To enable this, every child will bring home one phonetically decodable book which matches the phoneme(s) that are being taught in phonics lessons in school. Your child should recognise the phonemes from the lessons and be able to sound out (decode) and blend the words with minimal support. Please encourage your child to read the book a second time so that they can develop their fluency and begin to store common words in their memory without the need to decode every time. You may wish to encourage your child to



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read it a third time throughout the week and then ask questions after reading such as what they thought of one of the characters or why they think something happened.

Towards the end of year one and into year two children will no longer require fully phonetically decodable books. Instead, they will bring home a book which is mostly decodable and still matched to their reading level but you may find they contain words which are beyond them, in which case you can support with decoding these.

## Sharing Books

The other book your child will bring home is a sharing book. This will be either from the classroom library or from the whole school library. This is not matched to your child's reading ability but has been chosen by them or recommended to them by a peer or an adult. Please talk to your child about why they chose the book and support them as necessary with their reading. It may be that they cannot access a lot of the text but having someone read it to them is just as valuable in enhancing their experiences as a reader.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Becky Taylor

Senior Teacher & Phonics Lead

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