



## How Parents Can Help



### **Reading**

We want all of our children to develop a love of books and to enjoy reading. Our school library has a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books that the children can read in the classroom. They can also choose a library book each week to share with you at home. Please read to your child every day. This will help them to develop an understanding of how stories and books work and introduce them to new vocabulary and ideas as well as help them to enjoy books.

We have lots of new and interesting books in school to help your child to learn to read and to help them to become confident, independent readers. These books are graded into 17 coloured book bands. Our “Reading Together” scheme is a partnership between school and home to help your child to reach their next target in reading. Each week, your child’s teacher will read with your child in school. We will then send this book home for you to read and practise with your child. Each fortnight, your child’s teacher will write a comment and target in your child’s Reading Together Diary. Please read with your child every day and work on the target with your child as you read with them. Please write a comment about how your child has got on reading the book at home as this will help your child’s teacher to set the next target for your child. Your child will be given a Reading Bookmark for the coloured book band that they are reading, which will be attached to your child’s Reading Together Diary. These bookmarks give you tips on how to help your child read, targets for them to work on at the level they are reading and an activity you could do with your child after they have read the book. The target set by your child’s teacher may refer to the targets on this bookmark. The Reading bookmarks also show the phonics your child will be working on at that level of reading and the key words for them to learn to read and spell. At the front of your child’s reading diary, there is also a list of questions you could ask your child when they are reading and some reading strategies that your child will be taught to use.

Your child will also be able to join the bug club. This is a website with eBooks that your child’s teacher chooses for your child to read at home: [www.bugclub.co.uk](http://www.bugclub.co.uk). They are closely matched to your child’s reading level and the phonics they are learning. Each fortnight your child’s teacher will add new books to your child’s library of eBooks. Please read these eBooks with your child and encourage them to do the activities that help to develop their understanding of the book. For each book read, they will earn rewards on the website. Your child will be given a password to enable them to access the website.

Discovery Books supplement the reading together books and give your child the opportunity to choose a new book to read each day that is at the right reading level. The Discovery Books all have a sea themed sticker that corresponds to the colour book band your child is reading. Please work on the target set in the reading together diary as you read these Discovery Books with your child. The Discovery Book challenge rewards children who read regularly at home. Your child will bring home a Discovery Book Bookmark. Please initial a circle every time your child reads a discovery book. This will earn your child a stamp on their bookmark. When the bookmark is full, your child will receive a Reading Reward.



## Phonics

In order for your child to become a good reader, they will be taught phonics every day for 30 minutes. This gives your child the skills to recognise letters and groups of letters that make one sound and to practise blending the sounds to read and to segment words into individual sounds to spell.

In Year R, the phonics teaching is supported by the use of *Jolly Phonics*. Each letter has an action and a song to help your child recognise the letter and learn its sound. Each week your child will be taught new letter sounds and these will be sent home for you to practise with your child. In Years 1 and 2, your child will also have a set of words to learn to spell each week. These may be linked to the sounds they have been learning in phonics or may be some of the key words that children need to learn to spell correctly. Please practise spelling them with your child. They will be expected to use them correctly in their writing as well as in phonics. You could use practise spelling them out loud, write them in a sentence, type them on the computer or use the “Look, Cover Write Check” method (Look at the word, Cover it up, Write the word from memory, then Check if you have spelt it right).



## Writing

Please encourage your child to write at home, it could be a story, a shopping list, a diary of their holiday, facts about a topic they are interested in or a postcard.

In Year R, your child will learn to write their name and the letters of the alphabet in lowercase. A copy of the school’s handwriting script is available so you can help your child to form the letters correctly. Please use the school’s handwriting script every time you write their name so they learn to write it correctly. This should be in lowercase letters with a capital letter only used for the first letter of their name e.g. Jack not JACK.



## Homework

In addition to the letters and books sent home for your child to practise, your child’s teacher will also send home key words for your child to learn. There are 300 key words that the children are taught during their time in the Infant school. Some of these words are decodable and can be read using phonics e.g. it, back, time. Some are tricky words that cannot be read using phonics and have to be learnt by sight e.g. the, said, people, because. Please practise reading these words with your child. You can make them into games by writing them onto card and playing snap or lotto; you can hide them in different parts of the garden or house for your child to find and read; you can make them out of magnetic letters or write them on card then cut them up to make a jigsaw. Once they can read them, please help them to practise writing them too.

There are a number of online also a number of websites which your child could use to practise their phonics and reading skills. [www.readingeggs.co.uk](http://www.readingeggs.co.uk) is a subscription website that practises phonic skills through games in a careful progression. Phonics and spelling activities are also available on [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/) or from [www.lettersandsounds.com](http://www.lettersandsounds.com) or [www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kentict/content/games/literacy](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kentict/content/games/literacy). There is also a free app available from iTunes called You Can Read! By The Pedagogos Ltd which practises key words and reading skills. [www.oxfordowls.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowls.co.uk) gives advice on helping your child learn to read and a selection of free eBooks for your child to read.

In Years 1 and 2, your child will have the opportunity to do regular homework. This could be linked to English, Maths or Topic work and may be a short task or a longer home learning project. We hope that you will be able to support your child as they complete these tasks with increasing independence.