

Hello everyone,

This letter will hopefully give you an overview of reading at home.

Today each child will come home with a plastic wallet in their bookbag. Inside of the wallet will be:

- A reading book
- A reading record
- A sound mat
- A tricky word list
- A letter formation sheet

Reading books

Each week we will read in school with your child, this book will then go home for you to read with your child also. You can read as many times as you want together, with any family member/friends etc. It is really important that you have some time in the week to share the story together, looking at and discussing the pictures, finding familiar letters and words, looking out for things like full stops, capital letters and finger spaces etc. Everything you do with your child will help them to further their understanding and pleasure in reading.

After you have read with your child we would really appreciate it if you could write a comment in their reading record, this could be anything from a simple 'well done' to a detailed comment which a member of the Foundation team will read and respond back to you if your comment requires a reply from us.

Our books gradually introduce the children to different concepts of reading, to begin with your child will receive a discussion book. These books feature only pictures and no words. They help the children to gain an understanding of stories, to discuss what they believe is happening throughout the story, to predict what they think may happen next and to look in depth at characters and the setting of the story.

Once we feel your child has gained a well rounded understanding of discussion books, they will then move onto books with words in. They will start as simple captions and move through to a single sentence and then onto books with multiple sentences.

****Please remember that every child develops differently and not to worry if other children move onto new book levels at a quicker pace. We make sure that every child's book is tailored to their needs.**

Tricky word lists

Alongside their books the children will also have a tricky word list. These are words that the children have to learn by sight in order to be able to read them. They cannot 'sound them out' as the letters do not follow the normal rules of phonics. We will teach these words to the children in school but practising them at home will greatly help your child too.

Sound mats

Also in the pack there is a sound mat. This shows the children all of the phonic sounds they will be learning throughout the year. We will teach the children these sounds daily. Once the children know a number of the sounds, they will be able to blend them together in order to read a word, for example once the children know s, a, t, p, i and n they will be able to read the words, pin, pat, sit, nap, tin etc. Also in time they will be able to use these sounds to help them to write the words too, this is called segmenting.

Letter formation sheets

Lastly there is a letter formation sheet, this will help you and your child to see how we form our letters in Foundation. We teach the children to write in a cursive font as we believe it really helps them with their handwriting and 'flow' of writing.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We really appreciate you taking the time to help in supporting your child in their learning. We truly believe that reading at home makes all the difference to a child's confidence, competence and enjoyment of reading.

We look forward to working with you in order to make your child a happy reader.

We are aware that there is a lot of information in this letter and it may be overwhelming for some, please use our parents meeting slot to ask any questions or queries you may have. We are always happy to help in any way possible.

Thanks again for your continued support
The Foundation Stage Team