

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please see below important information regarding new home-reading books to be used by Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils to support their phonic progress.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching reading where your child is taught to read letters or groups of letters by saying the sound(s) they represent. Children can then start to read words by blending the sounds together to make a word.

What are Book Bag Books?

As your child progresses in their phonic knowledge, they will begin to read stories in school. These stories will be matched to their phonic ability, using sounds that they know. Each colour storybook band has 10 books.

Alongside the books we are using in school, we have also purchased home reading books (Book Bag Books) which will allow children to read books containing sounds they have already learnt.

In total, the cost of our new reading books was over £3000. The Friends of the School very kindly funded this for us and we do not want to have to replace books that are not being looked after. With this in mind, please use the plastic folder provided to keep books safe and tidy. Please ensure books are not written on and are treated carefully by all in your home.

How should the Book Bag Books be used?

These books will include stories your child can read fluently (including words they can sound out and read). Although it may appear that a book is too easy, they are not. Research has shown that it is vitally important that your child reads stories that they can access independently and are at their phonic level. Every child's phonics level is re-assessed every half term. At this point, you may find they change the colour book-band. However, sometimes they may repeat some stories to keep developing their phonic knowledge.

Within your child's plastic reading folder, you will find a guide on how to use the Book Bag Books.

The main message is to re-read the book throughout the week – 3 times if possible. This will help your child to become a more confident reader and support their understanding when re-reading stories.

Your child will bring their reading books home each Friday and must be returned the following Friday.

To support your child in their reading, please write in the reading record each day that they read to you at home.

For example, if they read at home **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** there should be 3 separate recordings in their reading record. E.G:

Book	Comment
Date: 13/09/2021 Book: Follow Me!	**** read the whole story. They tried really hard and remembered the tricky red words
Date: 14/09/2021 Book: Can you see me?	**** read page 1-7. They used 'Fred talk' to sound out words.
Date: 15/09/2021 Book: Can you see me?	**** read the rest of the book. Well done!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Blakey, Mrs Wootten & Mrs Kitson