

Reception News

21st September 2020



Phonics and Reading

We have already begun our phonics teaching. The programme we follow is fast-paced and we will be learning a new sound most days as well as playing blending and segmenting games with the children. This week we will be focusing on the sounds **s, a, t and p**. Please practise these sounds frequently and regularly this week at home. If your child already knows these sounds, focus on finding items beginning with each of the sounds; sorting the items by sound, spotting the sounds in books or playing games such as 'I spy'.

The children are very excited as they will all be receiving a reading book today. For most of our children the book will be wordless. Please look at the book with your child and do not dismiss it as a 'worthless activity'. The children are just beginning to understand the sequence and structure of stories and these books are valuable tools for developing that understanding. Encourage your child to make up and tell their own story using the picture clues. The books can also be used to develop your child's vocabulary and to help them reflect on how the characters may be feeling, what they might be saying or what might happen next. It is important that you read with your child every day. Please date the reading diary and record a *brief* message to let us know how you got on.

Reading books will be sent home initially once a week every Monday. The books must then be returned on Thursday. The children will also read a book with their teacher every Friday. This book will not be sent home however there will be phonics activity/game set on a Friday. These activities will usually be sent home through our Evidence Me app. Please use the app to tell us how your child got on with the activity.

Finally, the reading diaries contain some valuable information such as - the actions to the Jolly Phonics sounds, the cursive formation of all the letters and the nine Stage 1 Oxford Reading Tree words. Please practise these words. Your child will not move on to books with words until they are able to read all of these 'first words'. Your child will also be learning some high frequency words at school and you may wish to practise these at home as well. This week we are learning **a, as, an**.

We realise that this is a lot of information but thank you for all your help and support! Please contact us if you would like to discuss any of the above. All our best wishes,

The Reception Team