



Essential Letters and Sounds

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following an update from the DfE around phonics teaching, we have moved to a scheme called Essential Letters and Sounds. This is a phonics programme based on the previous scheme: Letters and Sounds (2007). This new phonics programme will support your children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers.

To best support us in teaching your child how to read we ask that you read the decodable text provided by school **4 times** across the week. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader.

We will be changing children's books once a week on Fridays. This allows your child to re-read each text several times, building their confidence and fluency. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelt in different ways.

It is a key part of learning to read that children re-read words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (able to read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency.

The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home. We will only ask children to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves. Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be a sharing book, such as those chosen from the class library. These books are there for you to read with your child, helping to instil a love of reading from the very beginning of their reading journey. These could be read together with your child, reading the words they are able to decode, or could simply be read to your child.

Happy reading!

Ms Baker

F/KS1 English Lead