

Reading at Home

Quite often there is a tendency to want to speed through as many books as possible to try and move children onto the next level of reading book as quickly as possible. However, this isn't always beneficial if we want children to become confident readers who have a good understanding of what they have read. For early readers, the first time they encounter a text they will learn the meaning of any new vocabulary as well as decoding and using picture and contextual clues to work out unknown words. They will look closely at picture clues to make sense of the text and will begin to think about the overall meaning of the book. Asking and answering lots of questions will help them to understand. This tends to be a slower and less fluent read. On their second reading of the same text, their fluency should increase and their use of expression should improve. They can then be asked more challenging questions about the text using the VIPERS sheet in the back of their reading diary. These questions might ask what they think about the way a character behaved and they should give reasons for their answers based upon clues they have read in the book. They should be able to retell the story confidently without prompts from an adult and use appropriate vocabulary from the text. Very early readers may then even benefit from yet more repetition in order to build up their sight vocabulary, confidence and fluency. As your child becomes a more confident reader, tackling longer texts, they will need less repetition. However they should still be given the time to practise rereading some books in order to improve their skill of reading to an audience. This is an objective that they will still focus on when they move into Key Stage 2.

Please read with your child at home at least three times a week but ideally every night as part of their daily routine and homework. Could you also sign their reading records to show you have listened to them and discussed the text?

We record how many times a week the children are reading. If we find the children are struggling, it helps to build a better picture of what can be done to help them. This year the children will receive 2 reading books on a Monday. One reading book will be phonic based with a lot of words that are linked to the set of sounds they are learning in their phonic lesson. The other book will have more common exception words and is a book that you may need to support your child with at home. This is more of a shared reading book. As the year goes on, some children in year 2 will shift from a greater focus in phonics to one that looks more at spelling patterns and rules. When this happens, they will no longer need to have the phonic based book and will probably be reading longer books.

Play with changing the vocabulary used on some pages and thinking of words that would mean the same thing. There is a copy of VIPERS (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction,

Explanation, Retrieval, Sequencing) in your child's reading record. Use this to help you with questioning. This is also used at school so will be something the children are familiar with. If your child struggles to read a word, don't always automatically give it to them. Ask them to read to the end of the sentence and think what word might make sense?

Spellings:

The children will bring home spellings that they need to learn by rote. These are often linked to spelling rules that the children need to understand so they can apply them to other words. Please talk about the rule every time you practise and not just practise the words. They will also have one or two common exception spellings to learn. These words are posted on the website every Monday.

Spellings will be given on a Monday and they will have a star spelling practise on a Friday. Please practise the spellings every night. Your child might remember them if you only practise once but for them to stay in long term memory, they need to practise a lot more than one time. Year 2 children will be given dictation sentences containing some of their spellings a couple of weeks after they have learnt them to check that they are retaining their learning.

Learn Its: Both year 1 and year 2 children are given facts to learn off by heart. Details of these will be on the website for each child. It is so important that the children learn them with automatic recall. The benefits as they progress through school are immense. If your child can't give an immediate response, then keep on practising. Year 2 children will be given the 2,5&10 times tables to learn. They will have a Rock Stars password to practise their tables. At first, they will struggle. Please reassure them that this is fine. They will learn their table facts and the corresponding division facts.

Please return homework and reading books every Monday so new work can be given.

Communication:

We will continue to send out class newsletters as well as school newsletters. Check the website for newsletters too. We still use parent mail to communicate.

Many thanks,

Miss Katie Campbell 😊