



Make a difference. Be outstanding.

24th September 2020

Parents/Carers

Phonics, Spelling and Reading are a key part of your child's education throughout Year 1 and Year 2. We are all working hard to make sure the children can catch up from the school closures. To support your child's progress, we ask that you support your child at home to ensure their progress and cement their learning.

Phonics

- Phonics is how we teach early reading and spelling. Your child will have daily phonics lessons in class as well as booster sessions to help 'catch up' from school closures.
- As we are unable to hold our usual Parent sessions and Phonics Meetings, we will be sharing videos in October to help you find out more about phonics in Year One and Year Two.
- The children will be given the opportunity to read books appropriate to their phonic ability- both in class and in the reading books sent home for you to share with your child.
- Tricky or common exception words are words the children need to learn to read 'on sight' and spell to become fluent readers and writers. These are words that can't be sounded out using normal phonic methods. Each year group will send home words the children will need to practise regularly to become fluent with these words.



Useful Phonics Websites

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/parents> a selection of interactive games for all phonic phases

<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/literacy.html> a great selection of games

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zgkw2hv> A range of fun games and activities

http://www.phonicsinternational.com/hear_the_sounds/hear_the_sounds_1.htm A useful page which demonstrates pronunciation of all sounds.

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/> Sign up for free for fun games and activities.

Headteacher: Miss K Stocks B.Ed (hons), NPQH

Deputy Headteachers: Mrs A P Venugopal M.Ed, NPQH
Mrs K Dixon B.Ed (hons), NPQSL

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Spellings

- Spellings will be sent home weekly to practise (from after half term in Year 1)
- Children need to learn these spellings from memory, which means regular practise. You could try writing them chalk, using magnetic letters, writing them on a dry wipe board, writing them in rainbow colours with pens.
- Children are tested weekly in class.

Useful Websites

<http://www.bigbrownbear.co.uk/letters/> A magnetic board where children can make words in a fun way!

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/words-and-spelling> Different spelling games for children to play.

Home Reading

Reading confidence undoubtedly plays a huge part in children's enjoyment of reading books for themselves. Regular practice at home, as well as in school, helps to develop their reading skills, fluency and stamina, which will help promote a pleasure for reading.

- The children will visit the school library each week and will have the chance to **change their reading books** in class. Your child can take home 2 books at a time using their school barcode. We encourage the children to choose one book at their reading level and one picture book to share at home to encourage reading for pleasure. This may be a fiction or non-fiction book linked to what they are learning in class or their own interests.
- Your child has a 'Reading Record' which should be brought into school every day and will be checked weekly.
- We ask you to listen to your child read for 5 minutes at least **four times a week**. Please ensure the book title and date are completed in your child's reading record and a short comment about how they enjoyed the book if you can.
- **If your child reads four times a week at home** they will then win a prize in class each week and be entered into the Reading Raffle, where they have the chance to win a book each half term.

Please ensure that your child is reading at home.



Comprehension

As well as being able to decode and read words it is also important that your child is able to understand what they have read. We encourage children to visualise and draw a picture in their heads so they can follow along and imagine what is going on in the story. You can support this at home by keeping your reading sessions short and then following up with some questions about what your child has just read.

Example questions to ask you child when they are reading:

Before reading: Can you predict what this book will be about/ how it will end?

After reading: Can you retell the story in your own words?

Who was your favourite character and why?

Discussing vocabulary: What does this word mean?

How is the character feeling? How do you know?

Useful Websites

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/> Free ebooks and activities for the children

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?e=-1&c=0> Your child will receive a Bug Club login where they can access books at their reading level and phonics games and lessons which they use in class.