

Essential Letters and Sounds

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following an update from the Department for Education around phonics teaching, we have moved to Essential Letters and Sounds. This is a phonics programme based on 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 to read, we ask that you read the decodable eBook provided by the school **four times** across the week.

We will be changing children's eBooks once a week on Fridays. This will allow 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 spelled in different ways.

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

The eBooks 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.

In addition to the eBooks, children will choose another reading book to take home. Although these books are closely matched to their phonetic understanding, there may be parts of these books that are not yet decodable for the children and they may need some support. Your child's teacher will inform you of how frequently these are changed.

Children will also continue to enjoy our 100 Recommended Reads books. These books will be sent home for you to read with your child, helping us 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 be read *to* your child.

Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them on their journey to becoming an independent reader.

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Mrs Cawley

100% Decodable eBooks

Each **Friday**, your child will be allocated an eBook and they will have a week to read it **four times**.

eBooks can be found by logging into **Oxford Owl** using the log in details in your child's Reading Record.

Each time the eBook is read, it should be **ticked off and dated** in the Reading Record.

These eBooks have been carefully allocated to ensure they are **100% decodable** for your child and that they only include the Harder to Read and Spell words that your child can read. Because of this, you might feel the book is **'too easy'** for your child, but actually the aim of these books is to support the Phonics teaching and intervention that is happening in school.

Why should we read 100% Decodable Books?

They provide children with the opportunity to **practise** their phonic skills and gain **greater fluency** in decoding.

They help to **develop effective reading strategies**, such as **decoding**, rather than relying on less successful strategies such as guessing at words.

When children are more confident with decoding, they can spend more time focussing on **comprehension skills and reading stamina**.

Children are more likely to experience success which will build their **confidence, motivation and enthusiasm** for reading.

These eBooks will be supplemented by a reading book your child chooses in school and a 100 Recommended Read book. These books are not 100% decodable and children may need some support whilst reading.