



# What an exciting day!

Hello, your child is bringing home their first reading book from school today. We are just some of the characters you will meet as your child embarks on their reading journey.

You will see a cream or pink sticker on the spine of the book. This is the first level of reading books at our school.



Reading with your child at home is **very important** and helps them to practise the new skills they are learning at school. Please support your child as they embark on their reading journey by hearing your child read **four** times a week and log these reading times in their yellow home link book. Aim to read the same book at least three times. This will help to build your child's confidence, word recognition and reading fluency.

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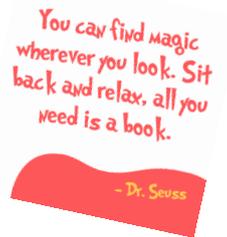
Look out for 'Tricky Words'. These are words that need to be learnt by sight as they cannot be decoded.

It is a good idea to have the Jolly Phonics Sound Mat to hand to help your child spot sounds as they decode words. This is in the clear folder in your child's book bag.



We encourage the children to use the pictures in the books as clues to help them decode unfamiliar words.

As your child's confidence grows and they develop their reading skills, the class teacher will decide whether they are ready for a different level. We ask you to leave this decision to us. There is no need to rush through the levels. Our school reading books are closely linked to the letters and sounds we teach in class and your child will be working towards reading yellow level books by the end of the year. There are four levels that children usually read in Foundation; pink, red star, red and yellow. We also have cream level books for our pre readers. These are great for those children who are discovering how to hold books, turn pages and to talk about what is happening in the pictures. Cream books are sometimes suggested by the teacher just prior to being ready for pink. Reading is much more than just sounding out and reading fluently. **Please turn over for some top tips and ideas to help your child enter the exciting world of books and reading.**



To begin with, the class teacher might suggest that your child comes to them to change their book. After this, you and your child will be responsible for changing books. Reading books are located in the KS1 hall which can be accessed through the playground doors at 8.40am and 3.15pm. We do not allow children to change books without an adult during the drop off and pick up times. If you are unable to accompany your child before or after school please do let the class teacher know and we will be happy to help them during the school day.

Happy reading everybody! The Foundation Team

# READ & THINK ALOUD BOOKS GALORE

Read to your child or have your child read to you. Comprehension doesn't need to be complicated. Talking about what is being read makes thinking about what is being read a *habit*.



## WAYS TO TALK ABOUT READ ALOUDS

- 📖 I wonder why...
- 📖 Where did...
- 📖 If the character...
- 📖 I wonder what will happen next...
- 📖 What if they...
- 📖 Why did they...
- 📖 I like this author because...
- 📖 This character/story/setting reminds me of \_\_\_\_\_ because...
- 📖 This story is similar to/different than\_\_\_\_\_
- 📖 My favorite part was \_\_\_\_ because...

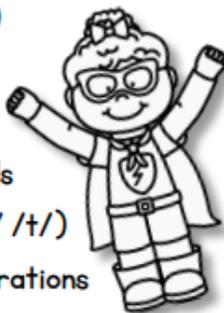


Keep books in sight as much as possible. Create a library at home, even if it is just a book basket with a few books. Then read and reread!

## WORD POWER

Before children can read they need to understand that words are made up of sounds. Have fun talking about words!

- listen to and make rhymes (cat and bat)
- clap syllables (hap-py)
- segment words (cat = /c/ /a/ /t/)
- make up alliterations (Silly Suzy!)



# THE ALPHABET READING WRITING

ABC's open the doors of learning to read through phonics. Teaching letter names and sounds is simple and fun!

# ABC

- Uppercase/lowercase matching
- Use play dough to build/stamp letters
- Search for letters in name
- Magnetic letter play
- Read alphabet books
- Play I Spy (a letter)
- Find letters on signs, toys, cereal boxes, license plates, etc.
- Practice beginning sounds in words

Reading and writing go hand in hand! Better readers become better writers. Better writers become better readers.

## Start with pictures!



- 📖 Draw a picture
- 📖 Label the picture
- 📖 Write or tell a story about the picture  
or
- 📖 Draw a picture about a book you've read!

Reading for 10 minutes per day = 3,650 minutes per year!