

Supporting your child to read at home



Dear parents and carers,

Your child has recently received their first reading book. This is an exciting time for you and your child. This letter aims to give you tips and ideas for supporting your child to read at home, what to do when reading with your child and what to write in their Reading Record.

At St Stephen's we use the, 'Read, Write, Inc' Book Bag books. These books closely follow the progression of phonics taught in our school.

Some children will begin by taking home 'Sound Blending Books' which contain a single word on each page to help your child become more confident at reading simple words using the sounds they have been taught at school.

Some children will begin with 'Dittys' a sheet of reading containing 'Speed Sounds' sounds to practice, 'Green words' to Fred and 'Red Words' to sight read. Dittys have very short phrases for the children to read to build up their confidence when segmenting and blending.

Children then move on to short stories of which the first set are 'Red Book Bag Books'. These books contain 'Story Green Words', words that they can segment and blend or 'Fred' and 'Red Words' words which have to be read by sight and which we have begun sending home as homework. The red books contain phrases similar to the Dittys but they also help your child to become familiar with how books work. Book Bag Books contain a sequencing activity and 'Questions to chat about' with your child to develop their comprehension skills.

In order to make steady progress, children need to read regularly (at least 3 times per week, but reading a little every day is best). **It is important to date, sign and record a comment on their progress in their yellow reading record each time they read so that we can monitor your child's progress.** Keep track of the books we send home on the inside front and back cover. Please keep the reading book and Reading Record inside your child's homework folder, and then hand it in each Thursday so that the reading book can be changed and new homework put inside.

The first read should focus on sounding out and blending to read the words on each page. Begin by asking your child to read the 'Story Green Words' and then the 'Red Words' on the inside cover. The second read should be a bit easier and your child should be able to focus more on their understanding of what they have read. Please ask questions about what is happening in the story and ask your child to find the word/s in the text that tell them the answer. Use the 'Questions to think about' at the back of the book.

Each child reads at their own pace and we are not expecting every child to need their book changed every time. It is much more meaningful to read the books carefully, and focus on your child's understanding of what they have read, than to rush through to get a new book. Reading at home is all about **consolidation** of their phonics skills and building **confidence!**

Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions.

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