

Essential Letters and Sounds – Year 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

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.

You may have noticed that only one book is coming home a week. The ELS program stipulates that one decodable book is to be sent home each week. This book is to be carefully matched to the phonics being taught in school. 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.

To best support us in teaching your child to read, we ask that you read the decodable text provided by the school **four times** across the week.

Day 1: Focus on decoding

Day 2: Focus on decoding

Day 3: Focus on fluency

Day 4: Focus on reading with expression and comprehension of the text.

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

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.

We are currently in the process of purchasing more books to match the new Year 1 phonics progression. The texts sent home will eventually be carefully matched to the teaching taking place each week. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home.

Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be sent home as a sharing book eg, library 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.

We will be changing children's books once a week, Miss Hake's class will be Thursday's and Mrs Leonard's class will be on Friday.

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

Kind regards

Miss Hake and Mrs Leonard

