

## **Further Information about how we teach reading and phonics at Whittingham C of E Primary School**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As you will know, we place great importance on learning to read and the development of a lifelong love of reading. As I have returned from Maternity Leave, I have been able to resume my role of Early Reading and Phonics Lead working alongside Mrs Athey as English Lead.

We have attended recent training and have also looked at ways in which we can further develop reading whilst working with the children and analysing the recent staff, parent and pupil reading surveys.

Please take the time to read this information letter as there are some changes in place, especially with regards to the books children take home.

Please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher or myself for further information or to answer any questions you may have.

### **In Reception your child will bring home:**

In the Early stage of Reception, the children will be bringing home phonics sound cards and green words to practise. They will also bring home a story to share, which has been carefully selected for its rich vocabulary. Please read this book to your child and talk about it, it would make the perfect bedtime story!



As they progress they will continue to bring home a story to share but will also have a sound blending book to practise. You may also be given paper ditty's to read with your child. Please use these as they are just as important as reading a book. The ditty will have been covered during the week in their phonics sessions at school.



From this point onwards your child will bring home books as described overleaf as they progress through the phonics programme.

### **If your child takes part in Read, Write, Inc phonics in school they will bring home:**

A storybook which will have been shared three times during the week in their phonics sessions. The children are familiar with the story and therefore should be starting to read it with more confidence.



They will also have a 'bookbag book' which is carefully matched to the storybook they have been learning in school. They will note have read this book in school so it may be more challenging but they will be closely matched to the phonics sounds your child is learning. These books include notes on how to help your child at home with phonics.



Both of these books are decodable books which your child should be able to read using the phonics sounds they have learnt in school. Please listen to your child read as frequently as possible, ten minutes every night makes a huge difference.

Your child will now also bring home a story for you to read to your child. This is an important part of home reading and your child is not expected to be able to read these books themselves. These books are carefully selected for their quality and rich vocabulary. This will enhance their spoken vocabulary and help them to become fantastic writers. We also hope that this will further foster a love of reading among our children. The importance of sharing a bedtime story everyday should never be underestimated!



### **If your child is NO LONGER doing Read, Write, Inc phonics in school they will bring home:**

A book which is within their ZPD range using our school 'Accelerated Reader' programme and they will have selected the book themselves. We find out your child's ZPD score by completing half termly reading assessments and during quizzing which the children do once they have finished a book.



For more information about Accelerated Reader please follow this link to the Accelerated Reader Parent Guide on our school website.

<file:///C:/Users/toni/Downloads/Parent's%20Guide%20to%20Accelerated%20Reader.pdf>



If you would like more information on Read, Write, Inc phonics and how to support your child please remember to visit our Read, Write, Inc page on the school website.

[https://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk/website/\\_reading\\_at\\_whittingham\\_c\\_of\\_e\\_primary\\_-\\_read\\_write\\_inc\\_phonics\\_/523580](https://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk/website/_reading_at_whittingham_c_of_e_primary_-_read_write_inc_phonics_/523580)

On here you will find an explanation of how your child is learning to read along with very useful videos which demonstrate how to pronounce each sound and other skills the children learn as they move through the phonics programme.

Please listen to your children read regularly at home as this makes a huge difference to their progress in reading. As I am sure you are aware, reading is a vital skill in enabling them to fully access our exciting curriculum at Whittingham and we would love your support in equipping our children to be confident lifelong readers.

Best Wishes

Miss Dick

Early Reading and Phonics Lead.

Mrs Athey

Headteacher and English Co-ordinator