



Dear Parents and carers,

Following updates from the Department of Education around phonics teaching, we have decided to move to 'Essential Letters and Sounds'. **ELS** is a complete systematic, synthetic phonics programme based on Letters and Sounds (2007). This new phonics programme will support your child in making quick progress to become a fluent and confident reader, and ties into our ethos of teaching children to read, quickly.

To best support us in teaching your child how to read, we ask that you read the decodable text provided by the school at least **4 times** across the week. Teachers will monitor this using your child's reading record. Please ensure both reading books and reading records are in school every day.

Spending just 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an **independent reader**. We will be changing children's books once a week on Fridays, this allows 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 spelt in different ways. Re-reading words and sentences is a key part of learning to read, and ensuring children can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision) is our aim. By reading texts several times, children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency.

We have invested in brand new Oxford University Press decodable books that are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school and the ELS scheme. This means children can practise 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 – therefore, the book your child brings home will be at an **easy level**. They will be exposed to more challenging books at school at other times.

Your child will also be invited to take home a **library book** each week – this book may not be decodable for your child so will be a **sharing book**. These books are intended for you to read with your child for fun, helping us to instil a love of reading. They will have a sticker on the front alerting you to the fact this is a library book rather than a reading scheme book.

### In Summary:

- **ELS will be used to support your child's phonological development**
- **children keep their Oxford University Press book for the whole week – Friday to Friday**
  - **your child's reading scheme book should be easy for them to decode / read**
    - **children should read at least 4 times a week at home**
    - **children who read 5 times a week at home will receive a house-point**
- **reading records are monitored and children not reading enough will receive reminders**
- **children will also be offered library books to share with you – these are not the same as the scheme books and you do not need to record these in the reading record**

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher so we can work together to ensure your child learns to read, quickly.

As always, thank you for your support,

**EYFS and Key Stage 1 Team**