

EAST SHEEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

YEAR ONE READING INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER

2023



Dear Parents / Carers,

The teaching of reading will be covered in our Curriculum Presentation but we thought it may also be useful to set out our approach in writing. We are currently working hard to read with each child individually, to undertake initial assessment and ensure that each child has books at an appropriate level. Once we have read with children we will start to send home the reading diaries and books on a daily basis. We will complete this process as soon as possible but please be patient with us!

During the early weeks of term we will continue to read with the children on an individual basis. Once the children have settled and are ready we will move to our 'Guided Reading' format.

The children will be taught reading through regular phonics lessons and daily 'guided reading' sessions. For phonics and guided reading the children will be put into groups, with initial groupings being based on feedback from their Reception teacher and our early experiences of their reading. As the children make progress at different stages throughout the year we would expect to see movement between the different groups. Phonics and guided reading groups will be set across the year group.

Guided Reading:

Guided reading involves a small group of children discussing and reading the same text with a teacher either together, at their own pace, or by taking turns to read. Different reading skills are taught and practised in our guided reading sessions and although the children will be reading daily please do not expect for there to be a comment in their diary every day. The diary comments will not provide you with detailed feedback on each reading session but we do make detailed records of each child's progress which we keep in school for our use. Should we feel there is anything you need to be aware of we will of course note this in the diary or speak to you directly.

Phonics:

Phonics is taught using the Ruth Miskin scheme, 'Read Write Inc'. The sessions are short, interactive sessions building on the knowledge they acquired in the Foundation Stage. There will be a session every day in which the children will learn to read and write new sounds. Children's progress is assessed on a regular basis and we may send home copies of sounds learnt for you to practise at home too.

Spellings:

High Frequency Words and Common Exception Words will be introduced each week in Spelling lessons. Some of the words may be decodable, others will be phonically irregular and children will need to be able to recognise them 'by sight' e.g. 'one' cannot be sounded out successfully. Building a bank of sight words encourages more fluent decoding of books and supports children who learn more readily by this method. These words can be found on our page on the website. Useful strategies are to learn the words in small sets, make flashcards and play games such as 'snap' or 'matching pairs'. Children will have a Spelling Shed login to practice the spellings for the week. Spellings will be assessed weekly on Fridays.

Personal Reading:

The personal reading books that the children bring home are chosen from colour banded book boxes in the central resource area and incorporate a selection fiction and non-fiction. These books are grouped together into colour bands having been evaluated as a similar level of difficulty.

We encourage the children to read their books three times. First time for accuracy, second time for speed and third time for comprehension. We feel this has proven to be an extremely beneficial technique in previous years and allows the children to become confident and well-rounded readers.

We want the children to be interested and enthusiastic about reading and therefore encourage them to choose their own books for their personal reading as much as possible. We do try to supervise choices and monitor book choices as much as possible but occasionally you may find that your child has chosen a book that you believe to be a little too hard or too easy for them. This is not a major problem but do feel free to comment in the reading diary if it is happening frequently. Children often enjoy a familiar book and can benefit from repetition. In cases where books are proving quite difficult try reading alternate pages or read the story first to familiarise them with the storyline.

We do greatly value the support parents give to their children at home with reading and ask you to continue to encourage your child to read with you on a regular basis and to provide feedback to us by noting your comments in their reading diary. Your feedback is extremely valuable to us and we try our very best to check their diaries frequently in order to read your comments and to make sure that children who need to change books do so. As we're sure you can appreciate this is not always possible on a daily basis but we do try!

We hope this information has been useful to you and answers any questions you may have about reading in Year 1, but if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask us.

Kind Regards,

Miss Dickinson, Miss Delgado and Mrs Linter

Year 1 Class Teachers