



Friday, 4th November 2022

Dear parents and carers,

### **Reading in Reception, Year One and Year Two at Bowmansgreen Primary School**

At Bowmansgreen Primary School, we believe that reading is of fundamental importance and underpins all aspects of the curriculum. It is vital that **every** child can read, as it will enhance their future academic achievement, wellbeing and success in life. Reading gives children the power to enter the world of literature and unlock the wonders of the world around them. At Bowmansgreen Primary School, we aim to instil a lifelong love of reading in every child.

Reading comprises of two elements: decoding and comprehension. This year, we have decided to further enhance our teaching of both aspects of reading through the introduction of the **'Fisher Family Trust (FFT) Success for All Phonics'** scheme of learning. FFT's new Success for All Phonics is a proven systematic synthetic phonics teaching programme for Reception and KS1. It meets all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the EYFS framework and has been validated by the Department for Education.

To support pupils in learning how to decode words, in Reception and KS1, all pupils will take part in daily FFT Success for All Phonics lessons. Each day, in their phonics lesson, your child will spend time revisiting previously taught phonemes and graphemes to ensure they consolidate their prior learning. They will then be introduced to new content, such as new phonemes and graphemes, through teacher led activities designed to help them orally blend, segment and read words and then sentences. Each child will also learn the alphabet and how to write letters in upper and lower case before beginning to write simple words and then sentences.

To complement their phonics lesson, each pupil in Reception and KS1 will also have a daily 'Shared Reader Lesson.' During this lesson, the pupils will have a phonetically decodable book which is exactly matched to their current phonics learning. This means that all the words will only contain GPCs (grapheme phoneme correspondence) and common exception words that your child has learnt. Therefore, they will be able to apply their phonics learning into reading a whole text and develop their reading fluency. In this lesson, your child will also discuss the text and develop their comprehension skills.

To further promote a love of reading, in Reception and KS1, every class has a story read to them every day and they visit our school library once a week. This helps us to share a variety of texts with the pupils and expose them to a language rich curriculum.

*'Inspiring, nurturing and achieving excellence together'*

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## **How can I support my child, with reading, at home?**

We recognise that for each pupil to become a confident and competent reader, there needs to be a strong partnership between home and school. To support our teaching of reading in school, every child will bring home a variety of books to read at home. In Reception and KS1, **your child will bring home three books per week.** (A 'FFT Success for All Phonics Shared Reader' book, a 'colour banded' book and a library book.)

### **1)FFT Success for All Phonics Shared Reader**

These books are explicitly linked to the phonemes your child has been learning in class that week and the comprehension skills they have been developing. They will be fully decodable (*i.e. your child should be able to read every word*) and an opportunity for your child to practise reading phonemes, blending skills and reading tricky words. There are some comprehension questions included at the back of each book which you can ask your child after reading.

FFT Success for All Phonics have written lots of advice on how to support your child which you can read on the Parent Portal. This includes tips for home reading and helpful videos to support pronunciation of phonemes. Please see the link below.

<https://parents.fft.org.uk/tips-for-home-reading/>

### **2)'Colour banded' book**

These books are to support reading for pleasure and to enhance each child's exposure to language. They are not designed to match your child's ability to phonetically decode. Therefore, you may need to read some words or parts of words to your child. You may also need to read them some tricky words that they are not familiar with.

### **3)Library book**

This book is chosen by your child during their weekly library visit and is to promote reading for pleasure and to enhance language exposure. (Your child will swap their library book each week, if they return the previous book.) Your child's library book will not be matched to their current phonics learning. Therefore, you may need to read some words or parts of words to your child. You may also need to read them some tricky words that they are not familiar with. You may decide that this is a book that you would like to read to your child.

## **When will my child change their reading books?**

***Every child is expected to read at home at least five times a week. Reading Records and books must be brought into school every day,*** so adults in school can read with your child as well.

**EYFS and Y1** – Pupils will change their 'colour banded' book and their 'FFT Success for All Phonics Shared Reader' **every Friday.**

**Y2** - Pupils will change their 'colour banded' book and their 'FFT Success for All Phonics Shared Reader' **every Thursday.**

Class teachers will keep a record of books your child has taken home from school each week. Each child will be given a zippy wallet to keep their books in. This will help protect the books from becoming damaged in book bags or rucksacks.

As a school, we have prioritised the teaching of reading and invested thousands of pounds in purchasing the new 'FFT Success for All Phonics Shared Readers'. These new books will be used for lessons in school and to support the children's learning at home. Therefore, it is very important that books are looked after and brought back to school, so all children can have access to the required resources to support their learning. If any books are lost or damaged, parents/carers will be expected to replace them at a cost of £2.50 per book.

**How do I record the reading my child has undertaken at home?**

When your child reads to you at home, please record their progress in their Reading Record. This can be a comment such as, *'Matthew was able to read the tricky word because. He struggled to recognise ai.'*

We greatly appreciate your support in helping your child to become a fluent reader. Later in the term, we will invite you to a parent/carer workshop where we will explain how we teach phonics in greater detail. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Davies  
English and Phonics Lead