Essential Letters and Sounds

Dear Parents and carers,

Following an update from the DfE 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.

To best support us in teaching your child how to read we ask that you read the decodable text provided by the school **4 times** across the week. Spending 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.

It is a key part of learning to read that children re-read words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency.

The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school. Your child will be practising 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.

Books that are not yet decodable for the children will be a 'swap a book'. These books are there for you to read with you 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. You can also access additional books via the Oxford Owl login sent home with your child.

Please record recording via Boom Reader. If you upload the swap a book, please upload it as a 'Library book'. If you are uploading a book from home, please upload it as a 'Home Book'.

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