

Dear Parents,

As school re-opens and we start the new school term we will be looking closely at the development of our recovery curriculum and for English we will be re-establishing the basics in reading and writing.

Oracy and reading will be prioritised in the first weeks to ensure that children hear stories, ask questions and have shared enjoyment of books. Short discussions will also take place with each child about their reading habits over the summer, favourite authors and book preferences. We are aware that some children will be more than ready to move book bands after a considerable time reading regularly at home. However, initially children will be asked to read a text from their spring term book band and observations based on fluency and comprehension will be made. During the month of September, class teachers will then baseline your child's reading level so that an appropriate book band can be selected for home reading. Scheme banded books will only go home once all pupils are baselined and we are expecting this to commence week beginning Monday 21st September.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of hearing your child read regularly at home during this academic year but under the current situation we have needed to make some temporary changes to our home reading book policy for this term, please see details below.

HOME READING SCHEME AND READING DIARIES

New Routine for Autumn Term

- We are asking all pupils to keep reading diaries at home this term. They do not need to be kept in book bags.
- Please continue to record all reading your child does at home in these diaries. We will ask to see them in school later in the term.
- When a child reads in school, staff will keep a separate record of this reading.
- Each child will be issued with two colour banded scheme reading books each week. These reading books will be sent home in book bags on a MONDAY. Please keep these books at home for the week. Encourage pupils to read at least 3 times each week and please remember that books can be read more than once. This is particularly important for pupils in Reception, Year One and Year Two as re-reading can aid the development of fluency.
- Books should be returned to school on a FRIDAY only! This will allow us to quarantine books over the weekend and allow re-issuing of new books on a Monday. When books are returned in book bags on a Friday staff will assume that this indicates books have been completed and need changing.
- Every pupil at Dodford will also have access to E-Books online at Bug Club which can be used for additional weekly reading.
- For the time of being our school library will remain closed. However, pupils will be able to select a reading for pleasure book (real book) from their class bubble book collection each week. This book can be read independently or shared for pleasure with an adult, particularly useful over the weekend when pupils will not have scheme books at home. These books can be returned to school and changed on a FRIDAY.



Expectations

It is expected that every child will continue to read frequently at home. **This should be at least 3 times each week.** Remember at times this might also be some reading of their own books from home, Bug Club, a comic, newspaper or book of their choice.

Reading diaries need to be kept at home for the time of being. We ask you to support us by recording all home reading experiences in your child's reading diary. It would be helpful if you could record the titles of all books sent home and continue to sign and comment when you hear your child read. **If your child is reluctant to read to you at home then please could you communicate this message via email to teaching staff who can then support and encourage from school.**

We hope at some point soon to return to normal procedures and so look forward to seeing the children's reading diaries in school in the future. A blank weekly reading diary will indicate that your child has not been reading at home and this would be a cause for concern. It is acceptable for older pupils to record their own reading experiences in their diaries but it would be helpful to have these comments also signed by an adult when you check and hear them read. It is still expected that pupils in Year 3 and 4 will be heard read aloud although not necessarily every page of their reading book and it is crucial for pupils in Year 3 and 4 to be questioned about their reading and given opportunities to discuss new vocabulary.

Remember younger children in Reception and KS1 should be encouraged to re-read each book twice. This will allow children time to look at the pictures before reading and encourage them to predict what might happen throughout the story. During the first reading with younger children their focus should be on decoding the text. A second reading gives them opportunity to recognise more words by sight, to read with good pace or add expression. Don't forget to ask questions after reading to check your child's comprehension skills and understanding of story events.

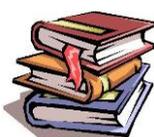
READING REWARDS

Our school reading reward scheme is designed to encourage children to actively read. Each child has been given a reading bookmark at the start of the year, these will be kept in school until they are completed. Children can earn stickers for their bookmark by reading regularly and can earn a maximum of 3 reading stickers each week. Once children have collected 3 stickers on their bookmark they will receive a special head teacher's reading sticker. This will continue until their bookmark is completed. When a pupil has filled their bookmark with reward stickers they will earn a reading star and will get to select a book from the rewards book box to keep at home. They can then move onto the next stage of the reading challenge. During the year children could earn a bronze, silver and gold reading star and then go on to complete the yearly challenge by gaining a reading rocket award. Reward stars and rockets once earned will be displayed centrally in the library so that the achievement can be celebrated by all.

Whilst we cannot closely monitor reading diaries at this time, we still feel that it is important to continue our reading reward scheme as this may help encourage some pupils to re-establish good reading routines at home. Therefore, we will be rewarding pupils who read regularly in the following ways:

- *One sticker for reading at home and returning books to school on a Friday.*
- *One sticker for reading a Bug Club book online.*
- *One sticker for reading well with an adult in school.*

Staff will monitor this each week and allocate stickers accordingly.



BUG CLUB

Every child has access to their own personal online library of books that can be read at home. Follow the instructions below to access these:

1. Go to **www.activelearnprimary.co.uk**
2. Enter pupil login details. These can be found at the front of Home Reading Diaries.
3. Your child's homepage will appear.

(Please ensure you have enabled all necessary features on your device to allow Bug Club books to open. On the Active Learn login page click on 'Will it work on my computer?' for help and advice.)

Once your child has read a book they will be allocated new books by their class teacher. Please be aware that these e-books are books from our school scheme and it is expected that pupils may have read a real copy of the book as well as the online version.

Encourage your child to access the site regularly with adult support as it is a great way to engage the reluctant reader or develop reading comprehension skills for the more advanced.

PARENT HELPERS AND FAMILY READING SESSIONS

We have not forgotten the importance of community reading and hope in the future to welcome back our reading volunteers (old and new) and recommence our family reading sessions.

KEY MESSAGES:

- SCHOOL READING BOOKS ONLY NEED TO BE IN BOOK BAGS AND RETURNED TO SCHOOL ON A FRIDAY.
- READING DIARIES TO BE KEPT AT HOME.

Thank you in advance for your support as this will help us to reduce the amount of items pupils need to bring into class each day.

