

Dear Parents,

On Friday 25th September your child will begin to bring home purple sound books which will be in their bags. We will add new sounds to these as they are learnt. Please practice these at home - in class we would usually say 's as in sun' or 't as in teddy'.

On Friday 2nd October your child will be allocated their first reading books. They will be allocated through your child's eSchools account but found on the Floppy's Phonics homepage of the Oxford Owl Website,

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

Once the website has loaded and you have added the username and password given out for Floppy's Phonics last week to My Class Login, the books can be found in the Extra Practice Zone and on 'My Bookshelf' in the ebook Library for Letters and Sounds.

The most important thing to remember about phonics is we don't use the letter names (e.g. ABC and the other capital letters) and we try not to put an 'uh' on the end of a letter sound. For example,

For the sound 'm' it is 'mmmmm' - not 'muh'

's' is 'sssss' not 'suh'

'n' is nnnnnn not 'nuh'.

We clip the 'uh' off the sounds as it is much easier to blend words. Some are easier to do than others.

'mmmm a nnnnn' is much easier to blend together to make the word 'man' than muh a nuh.

Oxford Owl have produced a short video to show you how the sounds are said. You can find it through the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

Oxford Owl also have some videos explaining how we teach using phonics and about blending. The following links should work but if they don't there are some instructions below.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/at-school/education-glossary/grammar-literacy-glossary-j-q/#phonics>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/at-school/education-glossary/grammar-literacy-glossary-a-c/#blending>

Instructions if the links do not work.

- Once you have logged in click on the parent's box on the homepage.
- Open up 'What children learn in Primary School' in the Year by Year guide.

- In the First Year at Primary School box open up Reception at Primary School then Reading in Reception.
- By clicking on the phonics and blending links within the text this will open up the videos.

They also have some suggestions in this section about how to help with reading at home with ideas for games.

Please only read the books that are allocated through eSchools even though all the books are available on the website. The Floppy's Phonics programme follows a particular order to help your child learn to read and the reading books are matched specifically to the sounds being learnt for that particular week, including the introduction of the high frequency or tricky words. We use some of the reading books found on the website in Class 1 to hear the children read and therefore we will allocate the ones we don't use. Children who have read the books in advance or early will be reluctant to engage with the phonics lessons in school and may miss out on other things, for example learning to spell.

If we feel that your child needs some extra challenge, we will use other books from different schemes. Similarly, if we feel your child needs extra practice then we will allocate extra books from that set to help with this.

Books will begin with just a few words practising the sounds they are learning in class and blending them together. This is to help them gain confidence in their reading ability. Fluency will build as the children are introduced to more sounds and keep practising blending them together to make words. Some children can blend quite easily from the beginning or may already be able to do so if they hear the sounds in words. For others don't be disheartened if they are trying to build, for example, the word 'sat' and they say every other random word except sat. Try and be patient but if it gets too much, have a break and come back to it another time. Learning the tricky words by sight will also help with fluency. These can be found on Class 1's page of the website or Class 1's homepage on eSchools and in their reading books. Children in Reception begin with Phase 2 before moving onto Phase 3.

Please get in contact with me if any of this does not make sense or if you would like any more information. I realise that there are a lot of letters and information being sent at the moment but hopefully this will be one of the last. The beginning of school is always the same.

Kind Regards,

Alison James