A white background with black and white clouds

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Building Together

Esh Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Homework is a great way of finding out what the children have been learning in school and practising it together so learning is consistent between home and school.

Children in Reception will get sounds and high frequency words to learn, a reading book (these are both online and real) and a little practical maths activity to complete.

Homework will be given out on a Friday to be completed for the following Friday. Please do not worry though if it is difficult to fit in as we know families lead busy lives. Little and often is best. Try and practise the sounds and reading as often as possible as reading is crucial to everything we do in school.

Reception will learn their first four sounds beginning Monday 8th September. They will then bring home these Phase 1+ sounds from Floppy’s Phonics in a sound book. Sounds are learnt on a two-week cycle with four sounds being introduced the first week and then consolidated the second week before the next four are introduced. Please try and practise these daily. Please also make sure the sound books are returned in their bags so we can stick in new sounds.

Reading is vitally important to your child’s learning. The books the children read will be a mixture of online books on [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) for which you will receive a login with this letter and physical books from the Collins Big Cat scheme. Children will receive a yellow Reading Record book that we ask parents to fill in the name of the reading book they have read, sign and send to school on a Friday. Please aim for five sessions a week even if it is only a few minutes. Hearing children read regularly has a huge impact and helps consolidate what they are learning in school. Please note that although we can allocate books every week on Oxford Owl, we **cannot** allocate a book from the Collins Big Cat scheme unless the Yellow Reading Record Book and the reading scheme book has been returned. We only have one copy of each of these books and rely on you to make sure they are returned before we send another out.

There is information on our school website, under the Learning tab in the Reading and Phonics section that gives information about Phonics and how to help your child read at home. There are videos that help you pronounce the sounds correctly when helping children to blend sounds together to make words. Please remember that we don’t use capital letter sounds in phonics words and we don’t emphasise an ‘uh’ sound. For example:-

m is mmmmm instead of ‘muh’,

n is nnnnnn instead of ‘nuh’

s is sssss instead of ‘suh’

In Class 1 we have the youngest children and they are often very tired at the end of a day. Also trying to fit in homework around after school hobbies and activities can be difficult. We understand this which is why we give a week for homework to be completed. Never force your child to do it if they are tired or it is too close to bedtime. Please do not spend more than 10-15 mins on homework – you can always come back to it.

If you do not have access to a laptop, tablet, mobile phone or another form of accessing Oxford Owl please let us know. We have a limited amount of reading books available from other schemes in school but we do rely on reading books being returned for use in school lessons or by other children.

Helping your children’s learning at home can also be as simple as finding numbers on doors and asking questions like, “If we are at number 3 how many doors away is number 8?” looking at coins, reading road signs, playing board games (dice/domino patterns, turn taking, matching, counting on or back are brilliant ways of putting learning into practice) and letting children measure when baking. If it is difficult fitting homework in, driving or walking to school gives a few moments to practise sounds. Ask them what sound they have been learning? Can they draw it in the air with their finger? Can they think of anything which begins with that sound?

If you have any questions regarding homework please talk to us about them.

Many Thanks

Mrs James