



Dear Parents and Carers,

Supporting your child with reading

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

There are two types of reading book that your child will bring home:

- A reading practice book. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently.
- A sharing book. Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

Reading practice book

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Please also bear in mind that when your child takes their reading practice book home, they will have already read it at least three times in school during reading practice sessions. Reading practice sessions take place at least three times a week in small groups led by a trained teacher or teaching assistant. We read three times to avoid overloading children's working memory as each reading session is designed to focus on a different reading skill:

First read – Focus on decoding

The process of recognising the sounds that letters make in a word and blending those sounds together to read them.

Second read – Focus on prosody

The process of reading with meaning by using expression, stress and intonation.

Third read – Focus on comprehension

The process of understanding and interpreting what is read.



When your child takes their reading practice book home, please listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

Sharing book

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together. Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

Homework Diaries

Please use your child's Homework Diary to comment on:

- Which books you have been enjoying at home
- How often your child has read at home
- A positive comment to recognise your child's successes

This will help to inform us of your child's reading habits so we can engage in 'book chat' with them in school and provide them with recommendations tailored to their reading preferences. It will also give us the opportunity to reward them for their efforts with reading raffle tickets – the more tickets they are awarded, the more likely they are to win an exciting book prize in Celebration Assembly.

For more information about how you can support your child with their reading, please consult our school website where you will find some helpful resources.

If you have any questions regarding reading, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. N. Hawes

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Early Reading Lead Pickhill School and Leeming and Londonderry School

