

St. John's Church of England VA Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers

NEW PHONICS PROGRAMME – ESSENTIAL LETTERS AND SOUNDS **Changes to supporting reading at home – EYFS and Year 1**



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) which has already been successfully adopted in Bramble Class (Early Years) and has been validated by the current government. This new phonics programme will support your child in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers. It is a rigorous but enjoyable programme of reading which will support children to 'keep up' with the learning of phonics, rather than 'catch-up'.

To best support us in teaching your child how to read, we ask that you help your child to read **two books over a week** spending a minimum of 10 minutes a day. This support is vital in enabling your child to become a confident, independent reader.

Book 1 – Learn to Read – the Essential Letters and Sounds book which matches the phonics phase being studied in class, or that your child is working within. This will be an electronic copy, available through the Oxford University Press (OUP), or a physical copy if you do not have internet access.

Book 2 – Love to Read – this will be a physical book that will be for sharing with an adult to create a love for reading and literature. Your child may be able to read all or parts of it confidently, but there is no expectation of this.

We will be changing children's books once a week on Fridays, this allows your child to re-read each text several times, throughout the week, thus 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 (they can read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times, children have the greatest opportunity to achieve fluency and can then move onto the school reading scheme which is currently in place from Years 2 to 6.

Please see the attached leaflet as a guide to accessing the books online. If you feel accessing the book online might be a problem, please consult your child's teacher.

Kind regards,

Esther Batstone
Early Reading Lead

We take child protection extremely seriously at our school. If you have a concern, you can speak to any of the school's designated and trained Child Protection officers: **Mr Priestley, Mrs Plant or Miss Roberts**. Alternatively, you can ring Somerset Direct on: **0300 123 2224**

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