



## Reading at Ogbourne - Acorns and Oaks

Dear Parents and carers

Following an update from the DfE around phonics teaching, we have moved to **Essential Letters and Sounds**; this is a daily phonics programme based on Letters and Sounds (2007). This new phonics programme will support your children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers by **decoding** words (recognising what sound each letter pattern makes)

### **How often should I read the decodable texts sent home weekly with my child?**

To best support us in teaching your child how to read, we ask that you read the two **decodable texts** provided by the school 5 times across the week. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home. We will only ask children to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves.

### **What is fluency?**

It is a key part of learning to read that children re-read words and sentences that they can decode until they are **fluent** (read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times, children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency. The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school.

### **What are sharing books?**

Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be a **sharing book**. These books are there for you to read with your child, helping us to instil a love of reading from the very beginning of their reading journey. These could be read together with your child reading the words they are able to decode or could be read to your child.

Children will be able to choose a sharing book from the class library to bring home along with their decodable books each week. They must bring back the sharing book before being allowed to take another home.

### **When do book bags need to be in school?**

We will be changing children's books once a week on Fridays; this allows your child to re-read each book several times 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. **Please make sure that book bags are brought in to school every Thursday in order for the books to be changed and ready for Friday.**

### **How can I communicate with the teacher about how reading is going at home?**

All children will have a reading record which will go between home and school in the book bag. This will be seen weekly by the TA changing books. If you would like to comment about how your child is finding the reading books- positives and difficulties, please do write in the reading record. You can record here what books you have read and when.

### **How can we find out more about phonics?**

We will be sharing more details on reading at Ogbourne at our **Phonics and Early reading evening on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 6-7pm**. **All parents and interested relatives are invited and we look forward to welcoming you there.**  
**With good wishes**

**Karina Nicholson, Lou Procter, Lucy Crump, Claire Cates, Rachel Stannard  
(KS1 and EYFS class teachers and TAs)**