

## Essential Letters and Sounds

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following an update from the Department for Education around phonics teaching we have moved to Essential Letters and Sounds, this is a 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.

To best support us in teaching your child to read, we ask that you read the same decodable text **four times** across the week. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them on their journey to becoming an independent reader.

We have provided your child with a reading folder for books to be kept in. Please keep them in this folder and bring it in to school daily. We will continue to check them daily and will be changing children's books once a week on **Tuesdays**. This will allow your child to re-read each text several times, building their confidence and fluency. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelled in different ways.

For children, re-reading words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision) is a key part of learning to read. 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. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home.

Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be sent home as a sharing book. These books will be sent home 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.

In order to continue to support your child reading at home, please also access books on Bug Club as additional texts.

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Smith.

Kind regards,

Miss Cross