

Year 1 Reading Meeting

Our new phonics programme

- ▶ The DfE has instructed all schools to purchase and use a 'Synthetic Systematic Phonics' (SSP) programme
- ▶ A number of SSP schemes are approved and schools can choose the one they think best suits their school
- ▶ Our new SSP programme is called Reading Planet Rocket Phonics
- ▶ We purchased this scheme at the end of the last school year after visiting other schools who use different schemes

A Quick Recap

- ▶ Systematic Synthetic Phonics is a way of teaching children to read, write and spell. The sounds that children learn are taught in a specific, systematic order (not alphabetically) so that children can begin to build words from these sounds as early as possible.
- ▶ Phonics supports children to hear, identify and link the sounds that letters make (phonemes) to what the letters look like when written down (graphemes). This helps children to recognise and read words, using knowledge of the sounds to read new or unfamiliar words.

Your children have been taught in this way in Reception, but not via the Rocket Reading Planet scheme

Why is phonics so important?

- ▶ When we come across an unfamiliar word, we use phonic knowledge to decode it.
- ▶ We cannot read every word by sight, as our brains do not have the capacity
- ▶ Children experience difficulties when they do not have good phonic knowledge as they cannot decode unfamiliar words and will guess based on the shape of the word
- ▶ This impacts on their reading accuracy and therefore fluency and comprehension

The Rocket Reading Planet Programme

- ▶ Engaging resources such as
 - ▶ flashcards
 - ▶ sound mats
 - ▶ Online interactive Big Books
 - ▶ Online quizzes to develop learning further.
- ▶ A fully matched series of decodable reading books from a variety of genres, which will be used in class as well as sent home for home reading – **this is where you will notice a difference from Reception**

How the lessons are structured

- ▶ 1 session per day
- ▶ 2 sounds per week
- ▶ Each sound is taught for 2 days – one day is focussed on **reading** using the sound, one day is focussed on **spelling** using the sound
- ▶ The final lesson of the week is focussed on common exception (tricky) words

How the lessons are structured cont.

- ▶ Previous sounds are reviewed using interactive or hard copy flash cards
- ▶ Each sound is introduced via an interactive Big Book story, this story lasts for a number of weeks with different sections focussing on each sound
- ▶ Each child has a Pupil Practice Book. They each complete a page in this book , focussing on reading or writing using that day's sound, depending on the day
- ▶ Children take part in 'guided reading' using specific books from the programme. Usually this is a small group activity

Reading books for home

- ▶ When a total set of sounds has been taught in school, the 'colour band' set of reading books containing these sounds is released to the children
- ▶ This ensures that all sounds and common exception (tricky) words that your child encounters in their Rocket Phonics reading book **have been taught during lessons**
- ▶ Your child will get one Rocket Reading Planet book on Mondays. On Thursdays, this book will be changed for a new Rocket Reading Planet book PLUS a reading book from our previous reading scheme.
- ▶ Your child will also be given the opportunity to choose a sharing book from our library for you to read to your child.

Your child's Rocket phonics books

- ▶ Children should read each book **at least twice**
- ▶ Why?
 - ▶ The first read is to decode the words, this may be more 'slow going' as it involves using phonic knowledge to sound out unfamiliar words. Also your child may enjoy looking at and talking about the illustrations more during their first read as they have not seen it before.
 - ▶ When reading a book a second and third time children become more familiar with the text and can practise fluency skills - expression, using punctuation to pause and changing their tone of voice etc.
 - ▶ We read for enjoyment and to gain knowledge and children need all of these skills in order to get to this stage.

Word Strips

- ▶ You will receive 2 word strips per week to keep in your child's word strip wallet
- ▶ There are no sound buttons under the sounds on the strips

At home

- ▶ Look at the back of the books for suggestions
- ▶ Education City phonics games
- ▶ Ask staff at school if unsure