

Responsibility**Respect****Compassion****Courage**

Monday 9th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

PHONICS TEACHING PROGRAMME: ESSENTIAL LETTERS AND SOUNDS

Following an update from the DfE around phonics teaching, we are moving away from using Song of Sounds to Essential Letters and Sounds. This new phonics programme will support your children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers. This will begin in Reception this half term and continue into Year 1 in September 2022.

We ask that you continue to read the decodable text provided by the school **4 times** across the week, which will support your child in developing their fluency and comprehension skills. A minimum of ten minutes reading with your child will enable them to become an independent reader.

We will send books home once a week on **Fridays**; this allows your child to re-read each text several times, and returned to school on a **Thursday** to be changed.

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 (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. 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 the taught sounds by themselves. 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.

We will be no longer be using the Song of Sounds song, rhymes and actions for reading and writing. We will be supporting parents in this change through our Find out Friday sessions and will also be providing sound mats for the children to use at home which run alongside the new scheme. These will be coming home today in your child's book bag. When your child is reading and writing at home, please now refer to the new sound mat.

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

Yours sincerely

Katie Turner, Nicola Bell, Melissa Horton and Hollyanne Harman