Wednesday 5th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from our Ofsted inspection in May 2021, the school has now purchased and begun to embed a new accredited systematic synthetic phonics programme called Essential Letters and Sounds. This phonic scheme will support your children in making rapid progress in becoming confident and fluent readers.

This program has different rhymes and mnemonics than the children may have learned previously. Children across EYFS and Key Stage 1 have already started using this scheme and have adapted well to the new resources. Moving forward, ensuring that we have fidelity to this scheme will provide increased consistency in learning experiences for all children which will ultimately lead to positive outcomes for all children across the school.

In addition to the change in resources there are a number of other differences to the way in which phonics has been taught previously. Please see details below on how this impacts the way in which you can support your child at home:

* To best support us in the teaching of your children, we ask that you read the decodable book provided, four 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.
* Staff will change the children’s books once a week, on Fridays. This allows your child to re-read each text several times building their confidence and fluency. This is especially important as they begin to develop their orthographic map, learning that the sounds within our language can be spelt in many 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 (read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency.*

* The books sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in class. Your child will be practising the phonemes they have been taught in school, with you at home. Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be a sharing book. These books are there for you to read ***to*** your child, or to be read ***together***, with your child reading the words they are able to decode thus helping to instil a love of reading.

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Suzanne Fielder. Also, please keep an eye on the school website, link, ‘Phonics and Early Reading’ where further updates and information can be found.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Fielder

Assistant Headteacher

Phonics and Early Reading Lead