



Stockwell Primary School and Children's Centre

Achieving excellence together

Friday 30th September 2022

Phonics Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following an update from the DfE around phonics teaching we have moved to Essential Letters and Sounds. 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 how to read we ask that you read the decodable text provided by the school 4 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.

We will be changing 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 learn that the sounds within our language can be spelt in different ways. Please ensure that your child's reading book and reading journal are in school so that these can be checked and the books can be changed. If you do not return your child's reading book, or it has been defaced, you may be charged for a replacement.

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.

While the text that your child brings home may seem easy for them to read, these have been carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school. Your child will be practicing 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.

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 instill 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.

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. Please also attend our phonics workshop on Thursday, 5th October at 3:45, so that we can clearly explain the approach to phonics.

Yours sincerely,

Zenia McIntosh
Acting Head of School

BJS FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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