

Reading for Pleasure



Thursday 8th February, 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Highfield, we are creating a strong reading for pleasure culture in which all children, regardless of age or ability, are immersed in the genres of poetry, fiction and non-fiction.

Parents/ Carers, the home environment and school are all essential partners in fostering this love of reading in our children.

Therefore, to support your child/children in nurturing their love of reading they will now be bringing home two books every week, a book that is phonically decodable and a 'Read to Me' book.

Phonically Decodable Books

What is a decodable book?

A decodable book is one which your child should be able to decode (read the words) independently. It is perfectly matched to your child's phonics knowledge and the sounds they have been taught in their phonics lessons.

These books are helpful tools in assisting your child to build up their confidence when reading and their fluency (the speed at which they read).

Reading decodable books are vital in your child's early reading development as they help to speed up the time your child needs to gain sufficient accuracy to read a wide range of children's literature.

Why are decodable books so important?

Understanding that the letters on the page represent the sounds in spoken words underpins successful word reading.

Children's knowledge of the English alphabetic code – how letters or groups of letters represent the sounds of the language – supports their reading and spelling.

Decodable books are closely matched to the sounds your child is learning in their phonics lessons and will only contain the sounds that they have already learnt, therefore, children should be able to read all words within the book easily.

Whilst your child may find these books easy to read, they are vital in supporting early reading development, alongside improving their spelling, as they witness a wealth of words that include the sounds they know.



'Read to Me' Books

The second book chosen by your child is a book for you to read to them.

Research has shown that there can be few things as powerful as regularly reading to children and that it has astonishing benefits for your child.

The National Literacy Trust's research has found that reading to your child:

- gives comfort and reassurance
- builds confidence and security
- encourages relaxation
- brings happiness and fun

'Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns.'(National Literacy Trust)

Therefore, at Highfield, we will be sending home two books every **Wednesday** and these will need to be returned every **Wednesday**. We will also be sending home a reading record book, with the reading books, in which we encourage you to write any comments regarding the books and your child's responses to them. Please always sign and date the reading record books.

Alongside the books we are sending home, your child has also phonically decodable books assigned to them in their virtual library on 'Bug Club'.

If your child is unable to access their account or you would like further information regarding 'Bug Club', please do not hesitate to email the school.

If you have any queries regarding reading at Highfield please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards

Miss Ahluwalia (Class Teacher)

Mr. Darbon (Class Teacher/ Phase Leader)

Miss Burns (Deputy Headteacher)

