



ST MATTHEW'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

20th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Home Reading at St Matthew's

At the start of this school year, I just wanted to take some time to update you about our home reading scheme, and why reading at home with your child is so important.

Firstly, out of everything we do at St Matthew's, teaching children to read is one of our most important jobs.

Our aim is to teach all children to read with fluency, expression and understanding by the time they start Key Stage 2, and then to use what they can read to broaden their understanding of the wider curriculum. We also aim to foster a love of reading, by sharing high quality books with our children daily, by giving children opportunities to experience success when reading, and by supporting our parents and carers to make reading a valued and enjoyable part of their daily routine.

Below is an explanation of our home reading scheme – please take the time to read through so you fully understand the reasoning behind the different books that are being sent home and how to record reading at home.

Our home reading scheme is something we are in the process of renewing, but this is a long-term process. This year we have already:

- Removed book banded books for children still moving through RWI Phonics (usually Reception, Year 1 and part of Year 2) and replaced them with Read Write Inc. Phonics Book Bag book. These books are more closely aligned with your child's reading ability and phonetic knowledge, so children can practise fluent reading at home.
- Bought RWI Sound Blending Books for those children who are just starting to blend. These are simple, one-word-per-page books for practice at home. Each word is first encountered on the right-hand page. When the child turns the page, they will see the word again, with any digraphs ('special friends') underlined and an accompanying picture, so they can check they have read the word correctly
- Reduced the number of different 'schemes' in the Book Band Collection to ensure books are more closely aligned across each band, especially up to grey band.

We have further improvements we want to make with the scheme this year, including purchasing more Book Band Collection books across all bands, to replace older books and again, ensure they are both consistent within each band, and progressive across the scheme. We will update you as soon as we have made progress on this priority.

In the meantime, I hope the changes we have already made help your child enjoy reading books at home. If you have any questions, please direct these to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

With best wishes,

Miss E Tyrer
Deputy Headteacher

Let Your Light Shine

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