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## Infant Reading Letter

Dear Parent/Carer

Reading is an important focus every year, and we would like the children to enjoy a wide variety of books. This letter will hopefully help you and them get the most out of the books they take home.

### Books

Your child will bring home up to 4 books each week. They will include at least 2 books from the Reading Scheme, Oxford Reading Tree. There will usually also be extra books that the children have chosen, both fiction and non-fiction, that they can share with you. While it is important that they read the Reading Scheme books, the extra books are very much there to share and enjoy; you may even wish to read them to the children yourself. While most Reading Scheme books can be read in one week, there will be times when the books are not finished, so please keep them longer.

### Reading Record

The Reading Record is our way of keeping in constant contact with you. Please fill it in every week and let us know both the successes, and problems your child has. Please let us know how your child is dealing with the individual words, but also if they understand the story, and can explain things and answer questions. There will be times when the books are not finished, so please let the school know that you would like them for another week.

### Book Changing

The books will be changed once a week. Your teacher will let you know when. This is the chance for the school to continue your child on the present part of the scheme, or adjust things to suit their needs as they change.

### Reading Stories

*The following is advice for parents drawn together by the Dfe in January 2022 in a document called The Reading Framework. It sets out how you can read with your child.*

#### *Introduction*

*Your child will bring home different books. The Scheme books are for your child to read to you. They have been carefully chosen so that they can work out all the words. The other books have words your child may not be able to read yet. It is for you to read to your child and talk about together.*

#### *How to read a story to your child*

*If you can find the time beforehand, read the read-aloud book to yourself first, so you can think about how you're going to read it to your child.*

#### *On the first reading:*

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.*
- Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'*

- *Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.*
- *Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.*

*Read favourite stories over and over again.*

*On later readings:*

- *Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.*
- *If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'*
- *Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'*
- *Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'*
- *Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in ....? Do you remember what happened to him?'*
- *Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.*
- *Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.*
- *Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them.*

Hopefully this guidance will be of some help.