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Dear Year 1 & 2 Parents/Carers,

We have started to send a book home with your child. Your child should have brought home:

- A book bag with a book inside of it.
- A reading record book.

Each night, please read the book with your child. Have him/her read the book to you. Some of the books will be familiar to your child, some of them will not be. Please keep this in mind when reading with your child. When you have finished reading with your child, please write in their reading record. Please also ask them questions to check their understanding of the text. You could ask them about the events and characters or about what they have learnt if they are reading a non-fiction text. Please see more tips below.

Each school morning your child will need to come in with their book bag, with the book inside of it, as they will need their book and reading record in school **every day**.

We would expect your child to read the book sent home **several times** before choosing a new book from our library. Ideally, your child would read every book 3 times. The first time they read it is to develop their decoding skills, the second time for meaning and the third time for fluency and expression.

We will change the books every Monday and Thursday if your child can confidently read the book and answer a variety of questions about the plot and characters.

Here are some tips when reading with your child:

- Let him/her hold the book and turn the pages.
- You could read the whole book, your child could read the whole book (only if s/he feels comfortable, can and wants to), or you could take turns reading a page each.

- Make this an enjoyable and fun time, preferably at the same time each night (i.e. just before bed, after dinner, etc.)
- Draw your child's attention to words on the page and/or individual letters
- Let your child "read" from the pictures – if s/he seems to be "making up" the stories as s/he goes along, don't worry, just let him/her enjoy the experience. This is an important stage in their reading development.
- To help your child learn a story so s/he develops confidence in his/herself as a reader, read a sentence and have your child repeat after you. With repeated readings, your child will probably memorize the book. Once the book is memorized, ask your child to find individual words such as "at", "and", "or" and "but". This will help your child develop reading readiness skills.
- We want your child to enjoy their reading with you at home. If you feel that they are not enjoying this experience please come and see me and we can work on your child increasing their engagement with reading.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Best Regards,

Miss Abbott and Mrs Eatwell