



Blandford St. Mary
CE Primary School

'Let all that you do be done in love'

'Love, Hope, Respect, Perseverance, Responsibility'

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to Home Reading Books

I am writing to inform you that we are making a small change to how we send home reading books to better support your child's reading progress. Children who are learning phonics across our school will now bring home one book per week to read multiple times. This will help them become more confident, fluent readers.

Why are we making this change?

We use the Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) phonics programme to teach reading. Repeating the same book helps children recognise words more easily and build their confidence. For younger children, especially in EYFS and Year 1, learning to read is about recognising sounds and blending them together. The more they practise, the easier reading becomes. This continues into Key Stage 2 and beyond, as the children tackle more challenging words.

How this helps your child:

At first, reading takes a lot of effort, so most of your child's brain power goes into working out words. This leaves less room in their brain for understanding the story. By practising a book multiple times, they become more fluent, allowing them to focus more on understanding what they read.

What this means for you:

Your child will bring home one phonics book per week matched to what they are learning in school.

To help at home:

- Focus on sounding out words (phonics).
- Explain the meaning of new words (building vocabulary).
- Pay attention to punctuation (pauses and tone of voice).
- Read with expression (changing voices for characters).
- Read to put it all together and check your child understands what they have read.

The children will also bring home a 'reading for pleasure' book to enjoy with you each week.

Please encourage your child to read their phonics book regularly and enjoy their reading for pleasure book with you. If you have any questions, feel free to speak to your child's teacher.

Thank you for your support in helping your child develop a love of reading.

Mrs Rosaleen Beaver
Headteacher

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