Moss Lane School

Information for Parents and Carers

Helping your child learn to read

Learning to read is a very important process for your child and we aim to develop a good partnership between you and school. We really value all the support you give your child and hope this booklet will help with any questions you may have.

The reading process in school

We like you to purchase a book bag from the school office to keep the books clean on their way to and from school. We would like your child to get into the habit of changing their book everyday.

In Reception there is a good range of books for the children to choose from and the children will read with an adult regularly.

Reading Records

The staff keep records of your child's reading progress and keep you informed through the Home/School contact book, once a week.

Reading at home

- Choose a time when you **both** 'want' to share a book, you are relaxed and in the right frame of mind.
- At the early stages of learning to read it is important for you to read the book to your child first, talk about the story and then encourage them to join in with you.
- Always point to the texts as you read, to help your child understand that in English the text is read from left to right and that the text tells the story.
- Encourage your child to point to the writing as they read to you.
- Help your child to understand the story, drawing attention to the pictures and discussing what is happening, reading for meaning is very important.
- It is very important that you and your child enjoy this special time, developing a positive attitude to reading is vital!

Some of your questions answered

My child has chosen a book that seems too difficult. What should I do?

- Talk about the pictures and the content as **you read to them** and praise any contributions that they make.
- Talk about the events and characters and ask questions as they listen.
- Encourage them to think about what may happen next in the story. And why!
- Read the text together, encourage them to join in with the words they know.

- Find words that they recognise or can work out using a range of strategies as described later.

My child has chosen a book that seems far too simple to improve their reading in any way?

- Books without any text can be used **very effectively** to develop children's story telling language, to extend vocabulary and an understanding of how books work.
- It may be that they fancy a lighter read this time, to practise their new-found skills and this will really build their confidence. You could use the book to extend their reading in a broader way, for example by encouraging them to use expression, take note of punctuation and adapt their voices for different characters, etc.
- Children often bring the same book home, this is a normal stage of learning to read and will help your child to develop their confidence.

What should I do when my child is 'stuck' on a word?

There are a number of strategies or 'searchlights' you can encourage your child to use. However sometimes, especially in the early stages of reading development, it may be more appropriate to just say the word for your child to repeat as they read.

Try to maintain the flow, when reading. Avoid focusing on too many unknown words.

How can my child work out unknown words?

- Look at the pictures to see if they give a clue to the word.
- Read up to the word and using the first letter sound as a cue, make a good guess at the word. Check by looking at the rest of the word.
- See what word would make sense in the context. Read on and then come back to that word.
- In shorter phonetically spelt words say the sound of each phoneme (unit of sound) and try to blend them together e.g. *sh-o-p*.
- In longer words, split the words into chunks or syllables, or look for words within words.

If you have any concerns about your child's reading, please discuss them with the teacher. Try not to compare one child with another: although general patterns of learning progress occur, there are still great individual differences.