



Ark Blacklands Primary Academy



October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Importance of Reading

It has been great to see how well the children have settled into school and it was lovely to see so many of you at the Phonics meeting. We appreciate that it was tricky for some of you to attend this meeting, so we have put the slides from the meeting on the school website for you to look at whenever this is convenient.

Over the next few weeks, we will be assessing the children's phonics knowledge. This assessment enables us to group the children and teach them according to their own level of understanding. Children who are assessed at level 1c or above will receive a phonics reading book before the half term break; children at level 1b or 1a will have some CVC words to practice. You will be informed of your child's phonics level once the assessments have been completed.

We would recommend that all children continue to use the QR codes to access the RWI films. These films can be watched more than once until the termly expiry date, particularly if your child finds some sounds or skills tricky.

Please continue to read their Star Reader book to them. Listening to and following the words, in addition to exploring the illustrations and discussing those stories is a fundamental part of reading.

You will also receive your child's Reading Record book before half term. This is for you to record your child's reading at home. As a school, we have an expectation that all children from Reception to Year 6, read their **school reading book at least 5 times a week and record this in their Reading Record**. We will also listen to your child read and write in the reading record. For this reason, the reading record and their book should be in school every day.

Please write in your child's reading record as stated below when they have read with you:

- If they are level **1c** or above, please write the date, the title of their reading book and a comment.
- If they are in phonic group **1b** or **1a**, please write the date and make a note of their CVC words.
- If they have completed one of the **RWI films**, please write the date and title of the film. Please be aware that this will not be counted as one of their 5 reads, but will significantly help their phonics progress.

You do not need to record the times that you read their Star Reader book.

When learning to read, repetition is very important for the development reading fluency. So, the expectation is that children will read each phonics book at least three times. Phonics reading books will be **changed once a week on a Monday**. Your child will be given two books to read for that week. The reading records will also be checked regularly each week so that we can monitor how your child is doing at home.

Their Star Reader book will continue to be changed on Friday, so please make sure it is in their bag at the end of the week.

Your child's teacher will be very happy to discuss any queries you may have.

Kind regards,

Miss Caush (Phonics and Early Reading Lead) and The Reception Team



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