

ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Midlothian
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EDUCATION
Head Teacher
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Midlothian



*****PLEASE NOTE THE NEW SCHOOL ADDRESS*****

21st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This information would normally have been given to you by Mrs Laird at the parents meeting in May. Unfortunately that couldn't happen so I am writing to you to let you know about the reading homework.

Your child will be issued with a reading book on a weekly basis. Books will be issued on a Monday to be returned on a Thursday. There are nine keywords at stage one of the Oxford Reading Tree scheme. There is an activity book to accompany the story books to help your child to recognise the words out of context. For the keywords your child will recognise the shape of the whole word and not the individual letter sounds.

The keywords for stage 2 and above will be issued as a list in a separate yellow jotter. Your child is not expected to recognise every word in the book, only the significant keywords that are given for each book. Talking about the pictures allows your child to retell the story whilst developing a sight vocabulary.

Encourage your child to point to the words as they read them, do not be worried if your child appears to be memorising the book, this is a natural part of reading development. Follow up tasks in the classroom ensure that they are understanding the text.

Your child will also have a Reading Record when they move on to stage 2 books for any questions you have or comments you wish to make.

We also use a phonics scheme to support children in their reading development. The scheme that we use is the Read, Write Inc Phonics. This supports your child in learning the sound that individual letters make and also groups of letters. Your child will learn to 'Fred Talk' words by saying the individual letter sounds and then the whole word. I shall send home lists of words that your child can read as we progress through the scheme.

Your child will also have a handwriting jotter to practise letter formation. For each letter there is a letter formation rhyme that your child says as they write the letter. Encourage your child to say the rhyme as it helps ensure the correct formation.

Thank you for your continued support.

Alison MacKerron
Class Teacher