

Reading update for Y1 and Y2 parents and carers

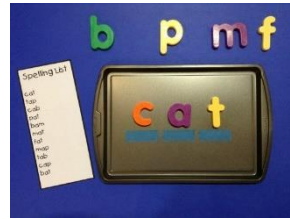
September 2022

If you have been reading the newsletter, you will have noticed that this year we are introducing a new phonics scheme and some new reading books. Here is some more information about the changes and how they will affect your child:

Having fun with phonics

Children need to develop a variety of skills when they learn to read and learning phonics is a really important one. Phonics means learning that letters and combinations of letters make different sounds. Using phonics, when children see a new word they can say the sounds in the word from left to right (sounding it out) and then blend them together to 'decode' (read) the word.

c-a-t = cat



We use the short 'pure' sounds for each letter. If you are unsure about these you can follow this link to hear children saying the sounds correctly:

- <https://lettersandsounds.org.uk/index.php?page=overview>



Our new scheme is called Twinkl Phonics and it will replace Jolly Phonics which we have been using in Early Years previously. We are introducing the children to this new scheme where they will meet new characters, read stories, learn actions, sing songs and, most importantly, have fun, whilst learning all about letters and sounds.

Your child will be having regular phonics lessons, as before, but using the new scheme. We will share information about the new sounds and letters that they are learning with you so that you can support your child's learning at home as well.

Tricky words

Through learning about letters and the sounds they make and then how to blend the sounds (phonics), children are able to 'decode' or read lots of words. However, some words are not decodable (which means that they can't be blended) at the child's current level of understanding and these words need to be read 'on sight' as whole words. This means that children can read these words wherever they see them, including in their reading books.

Your child will be learning the tricky words as part of their phonics lessons. We will share information about these words with you so that your child can practise the words at home. This will replace the 'Rockets' sheets used previously.

Decoding to read



Our new reading books are called 'Rhino Readers'. The new books will link to the sounds that children are learning in their phonics lessons. They are a mixture of story and information books and they feature the characters in the Twinkl Phonics family.

All our reading scheme books are now 'decodable'. This means that children will be able to use the letter sounds they know and blend them together to read most of the words in their book. Each of the Rhino Readers books has a page at the beginning which shows all the sounds that will be in that book, so children can practise them before reading. There are also some focus words for children to practise their blending. Each book will also contain some Tricky words which are shown at the start of the book and in the text in a different colour, so your child can spot them. At the end of each book there are some questions and activities to extend children's understanding of what they've read.

We will be supplementing the new Rhino Readers books with other decodable reading from the Oxford Reading Tree and other schemes. We will write the titles of your child's books in their reading diary. They should be able to read these books independently.



books
decodable

Choice books

One of the ways that we encourage children to read for pleasure at Harborne Primary by giving them 'choice' books. These are a range of books, including some from the Oxford Reading Tree scheme, that are grouped together. Children move through a progression of different books alongside their reading books. By choosing the books they would like to read, children can develop preferences, discuss their choices and recommend books to each other.

Oxford
Reading
Tree

School is

Please note: children are not expected to 'decode' their choice book independently. These books are for sharing with friends and family at school and at home.

You can support your child's reading by:

- Helping them learn about letters and sounds (phonics)
- Helping them learn the 'Tricky' words
- Listening to them reading their decodable reading books
- Sharing your child's choice books with them

Thank you for your support which will help all our children to become confident readers who love to read!

