



**Westcott Church of England School**  
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www.westcott.bucks.sch.uk  
Headteacher **Mr Barry Grace**

## **Parent Information**

13 January 2023

### **How to support with phonics and English at home?**

#### **Reception and Key Stage 1**

##### **Focus on phonics**

We follow the Read, Write Inc phonics approach. The children are in groups that match their phonics ability.

**Ditty Group:** Throughout the week, children are reading paper ditties in school. Your children will come home with the same paper ditties to practise daily. We want the children to be able to read these fluently and daily practise at home will help with this.

**Story Books:** After Ditty Group we go onto story books. The children will spend the week reading the story book at school. The stories are made up of green words- which are decodable and red words which are 'tricky words' that can't be sounded out. They need to learn to recognise these by sight- thinking about what letters are tricky to help them remember for reading and then later writing. We send home a photocopied sheet to support your children with learning the words for the stories and if done daily for 5 or 10 minutes this will help your child to read these words and stories much more fluently. You will also get a book that matches the phonic level your child is at. This means the books will contain sounds and words that the children have been exposed to already. The Book Bag book will be new to your child, so read the opening instructions on the front page to help you support your child. These books should be read at home at least three times within the week. In the first read your child will be focussing on reading each word individually. In the second read, their word recognition will become quicker allowing a faster pace and better understanding of the story. In the third read, the speed should be much quicker and therefore the child is using more brain power to understand the story, rather than on reading each word. This is the point when the story becomes meaningful and pleasurable and they can answer questions based on the content. There are questions at the end of the book to check understanding and promote discussion of the story.



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## **Key Stage 2**

We have made changes to the way we want children to learn their spellings. The reason we have made changes is because we want children to learn their spellings and retain them and apply them in class.

Every half term, you will be sent a list of National Curriculum spellings and we would like the children to practise these regularly at home - little but often.

We will not be doing a weekly test, but we will be revisiting these words in class each week; reading them, using them in dictation and will be expecting that the children will improve over the course of the half term with practising at home and at school. In school, teachers will teach a range of different spelling strategies and rules to help the children learn their words. At the end of the half term we will test the children on their spellings. The words for each half term will be posted on google classroom and published on the school website.

If you have any queries, please speak to your child's class teacher.

**Miss Webb**

***Reading and English Lead***