Dear parents,

We are very excited to update you with our plans for developing the teaching of reading in school and in particular, the resources available for you to support this learning at home.

We have recently invested in purchasing extra books in the Monster Phonics reading scheme so that your child can practise what they have been learning in school, at home with you. The Monster Phonics scheme ensures that the books which your child reads at home directly relate to the sounds (phonics) which they learn in class. Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be better able, through this practise and consolidation, to develop fluent and confident decoding skills, as well as an understanding of what they are reading.

**Acorn Class**

We will be reading a book over a week with your child in class. At the end of the week, we will then send that decodable Monster Phonics book home for you to read with them over the following week. This will allow them to practise what they have covered in school and develop the fluency and confidence in comprehension that are such important aspects of being a successful reader. While we will aim to send home a new Monster Phonics book each week, we may keep a child on the same book for longer if they need extra support with the learning involved.

**Reading Frequency**

It is important to prioritise the reading of the Monster Phonics book (at least 3 times in a week, more if they are finding it challenging) because it is directly linked to what your child is learning in school. Your child should read to an adult every day if possible and the adult needs to write in the reading diary. It is really important that you keep these books in your child’s book bag each day, especially as they move up the school, as we may change the book more frequently if necessary. Also, this will ensure that the books don’t get lost.

Please remember that reading is not about just reading the words and it is really important to discuss the story, the characters, to predict and summarise – there are some great questions to support this at the back of the scheme books.

**Horse Chestnut Class**

By Year 2, as the children read more independently, we will send home the book that they are reading in school, so it is important to note down what page they reach each night, so we know where to pick up again in school. These books will be changed as and when they are ready. The Monster Phonics books focus on many of the ‘Tricky Witch’ spelling patterns and common exception words that are introduced in lessons. Please do discuss these words and patterns, and encourage your child to notice where they are seen away from the books too.

**Reading Frequency**

It is still very important to read daily with your child as they become more confident and fluent readers. It is also important to continue to read to them and give them access to more challenging texts that they couldn’t read independently. It also shows how highly you value reading.

**Reading for Pleasure**

Alongside the Monster Phonics book, we will be sending home a Reading Planets book for you to share with your child. This book is a sharing book as, while it does align with the phonics learning we will be covering in class in the main, there may be the occasional sound that they have not yet come across. We are sending this book to give them a broader range of reading material and also exposure to non-fiction books that will ensure that your child remains keen and interested in their reading.

Further to this, your child will be able to take home a library book to share with you, to again ensure that they have access to a broad diet of reading material as well as giving children the option to make choices about what they read. This ‘reading for pleasure’ book is NOT something that your child will be expected to read on their own, but to share with an adult. Please read this book to your child asking them questions about what you have read to check their understanding, discuss new vocabulary and help them to develop their comprehensions skills. The children may keep their library book for longer than a week if they wish.

**Caring for books**

Please ensure that your child looks after their books. They should not tear or crease pages, bend the spines back or deface the pages by drawing or writing on them. A lot of money has been spent providing these top-quality books and we need your support to ensure that every child is able to benefit in the long term.

**Missing or Lost Books**

As stated earlier, the school has spent a lot of money on the new Monster Phonics books and the PTA (FOLS) has very generously helped us to expand out library. We understand that accidents do happen, and sometimes books are lost, but we need to replace each damaged or lost book so that other children can benefit from reading them. In such circumstances, please inform the School Office about the name of the book which has been lost/damaged and pay at least £5.00 to cover the cost of a replacement book. (It may cost more depending on where we can purchase the text from).

Please get in touch with your child’s teacher, either on the gate or via the school office, if you would like further clarification or any support with knowing how to read with your child.

We hope that you enjoy using our new Monster Phonics books.

Many thanks,

C Woolley A Thackway V Thurkettle and J Chima

Head of School English Lead & Acorn Class Teachers

Horse Chestnut Teacher