

Reading at Heronshaw

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are exceptionally passionate about reading at Heronshaw school and work to encourage all children to find their love of reading through our teaching of phonics, book talk and class storytelling of rich texts. This letter provides as information about our reading books at Heronshaw School and the journey your child will take with us from Foundation to Year 2.

Once your child begins accessing the Read Write Inc phonics programme in Foundation, they will be given a 'Fab Phonics' workbook, which reinforces the sounds your child has been taught during their phonics lessons at school. Each week, your child's teacher will stick in the new sounds that your child has been learning. With this book we ask that you practise reading and writing these sounds inside the Fab Phonics workbook. As your child progresses through the Read Write Inc programme a series of words will be added to the book each week on green paper. Your child should be able to apply their segmenting and blending skills when they are practicing these words at home. A set of 'tricky red words' will also be sent home throughout the course of the year on pink paper for your child to become familiar with and practise at home. Red words are words that are not phonetically decodable and therefore we need to learn to read these on sight. The Fab Phonics book will stay with your child and will continue to be sent home throughout your child's reading journey at Heronshaw.

The next step in your child's early reading journey will be moving on to our Ditty sheets. These are mini stories filled with phonetically decodable words that your child can practise reading at home. As your child moves through the Read Write Inc programme, they will receive different coloured books which become more challenging. Each reading book they bring home is linked to the book your child can phonetically decode along with some tricky red words that your child has also been taught. Below is a table of the order in which our reading books are organised. Once your child has finished Grey level, they will move onto a selection of age appropriate texts, which they will be able to select for themselves. These books are arranged by themes in our shared area, under 3 well-loved authors; to enable children to select books of different themes, experiences, and genres. The freedom to choose their own reading book for home encourages the love of reading for pleasure and we ask that children vary their choice so they are exposed to a range of reading genres and authors.



Ditty	Red	Green	Purple	Pink	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Grey	Age expected texts		
									Donaldson	Jeffers	Rowling

Children will change their reading books on a Tuesday and a Friday. Alongside the reading book you will find a yellow reading record that gets sent home. Inside this book you will find your child's reading level which will be updated each half term. Every time you listen to your child read, please add the date, your initial and a short comment (if you wish) into the book. When an adult reads with your child in school this will also be added into this book so, please ensure books are in school every day. Teachers shall greet you each morning with a special basket to place your book and record into and will monitor how often your child is read with.

What part can parents/ carers play to build confident readers?

- We ask that you read your child's reading book with them 3 times.
 - The first read is to support decoding the new and unfamiliar words in the book.
 - The second read will be to build fluency and expression.
 - The third read of the book is to develop comprehension through book talk. This is where you may ask your child some questions about the story.
- Please support your child's reading progress by listening to them read at least 5 times a week as this will build confidence, fluency and intonation through reading; essential in becoming a strong reader.
- Make reading enjoyable – cosy up and create a quiet time for this.
- Create a love of books – read stories to them and visit the school library and local libraries in MK.
- Ensure your child has their reading book and reading record in school every day.
- You can inspire reading outside of school further by listening to audiobooks.
- Read a book together ahead of enjoying the movie.
- Read books TO your child and enjoy them together.
- Visit your local library and book shop.
- Reread the same books to your child; encouraging them to join in with repeated words/ phrases.
- Most importantly it's important to embed reading as part of your daily routine; 10 minutes before bed.



Reading celebration

At the end of each half term your child's reading level will be assessed. Every time your child moves up a reading level, they will receive a phonics reading certificate for the colour group they have moved up in.

Each day your child's reading record will be collected by their class teacher. Every Friday those that have managed to log 5 consecutive reads will receive a gold star in their reading book! The stars work towards the child's reading star awards. To further encourage children to read we also have a reading raffle! If your child reads 5 times a week, they will get a raffle ticket added to the class pot. Every end of half term celebration assembly the raffle tickets are drawn to reveal one winner from each class who will receive a special reading prize to take home.



Library opening times:

We love sharing our enjoyment of reading with all the families at Heronshaw and are fortunate to have a magical, cosy library tucked away at the end of the school to the side of foundation. All classes will have the opportunity to visit the library once during the week and enjoy the array of reading materials, whilst sharing recommendations and exploring new authors. This year our library will be open to families once more after school. Please note entry into the library is via Foundation gate, where library opening times are listed. It will open at 3:15pm and will close once empty or by 4pm.

Monday	Foundation
Tuesday	Yr 1 & 2
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	CLUB
Friday	Whole School

We do hope you enjoy your child's reading journey this year at Heronshaw. Happy Reading!

Mrs. J Calder
Curriculum, English, Music and Enrichment Lead