

20 October 2023

Headteacher - Tony Head

Dear Parents

Thank you for your support with reading so far this year. We are making some adaptations to the way we teach reading and wanted to inform you of how you can continue to support your child's reading at home.

Currently, your child reads their book with their teacher before bringing it home. From this point forwards, your child will bring their new book home prior to reading it with their teacher.

Please read this new book with your child at least 3 times before their next guided reading session.

Our aim is that during our reading sessions at school we will focus on your child's comprehension. This means that we would like them to focus on their decoding and prosody when reading at home with an adult.

We are focussing on these three steps to reading.

1. Decoding (being able to read every word)
2. Reading with expression (Prosody)
3. Comprehension (checking their understanding of what they have read)

Here are some tips of how to help your child with their reading at home:

### Decoding

This should be the strategy used to read unknown words.

If your child is struggling to read a word, please encourage them to say the sounds and then blend to say the word.

Next time they encounter the word encourage them to sound it out in their head.

### Reading with expression (Prosody)

Please share with your child the words, phrases or dialogue that could be read with expression.

This could be reading verbs (action words) so they convey meaning. For example, raising your voice as you read the word shout.

Also discuss how to use punctuation when trying to read with expression. For example, question marks tell us to look for a question, exclamation marks tell us to look for feelings and inverted commas introduce dialogue – which is where we can try out character's voices and feelings.

Finally, think about the tone of the whole sentence. Is it happy, sad, excited or thoughtful? Please show your child how you can alter your voice and the pace of reading to show the tone.

When you have read with your child, please write a comment in their reading record. If they have read three times, they will move up the book worm. Once they reach the top of the book worm, they will receive a prize.

**Please ensure your child continues to bring their reading book and reading record into school every day**, as they will need it for comprehension tasks and paired reading. Additionally, we will not be able to send a new book home until we have received their previous book.

Thank you for your continued support in your child's reading journey.

The Year 3 team.