



7th September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As we start the new school year, I thought it important to explain and recap our reading systems at The Cambridge.

Our books

The children will continue to bring a '**Phonic Reader**' home on a weekly basis. It is so important to encourage your child to repeatedly read it, or part of it each day to build confidence, fluency and pace. This is part of the National Curriculum and such an important part of early readers' development. In addition, reading the same book provides additional opportunities to ask your child questions about what they have read to develop comprehension skills. It might take a few weeks to ensure your child is reading books from the correct box but the book should be read with 95% accuracy so your child understands what they are reading. You could time how quickly your child reads the book each day as a game if they like competition.

In light of current restrictions, unfortunately, the children will not be able to bring home '**Family Readers**' however please continue to read books you have at home or borrow from the local library. We no longer have access to the online Bug Club books, but you can access some free eBooks via the Oxford Owls website. Follow the link below and create an account.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

When Phonic Readers come back to school, they will be quarantined for a week before returning to the library to be borrowed by another child.

Supporting reading at home

As your child reads at school this week, the class teachers will check they have a reading wallet, to protect the reading books and include new 'Reading at Home', supporting comprehension booklets and a bookmark with helpful tips and questions stems to give you extra guidance when reading with your child. In addition, there is information about how the children learn to read and practice their reading skills through phonics and reading at The Cambridge, which I hope you find useful.

Thank you for supporting your child's reading at home. It really makes a difference. Research suggests that reading to children every day at a young age has a direct effect on their schooling outcomes regardless of their family background and home environment. It has a significant positive effect on their reading skills and cognitive skills later in life. Reading to young children 6-7 days per week has the same effect as being almost 12 months older.

If at any time you have any queries regarding reading or phonics, please contact your child's class teacher via a message in the reading record, letter or email.

Returning books

Following an audit of the Phonic and Family reading books, there are some books that have not been returned to school. Please could you have a look at home for any school reading books and send them in with your child as soon as possible.

Thank you for all your support.

Yours sincerely,

STancock

Miss Tancock