



21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

The children are very excited to bring home their first school reading book.

It is inside the named plastic reading wallet that protects the books from water damage caused by leaking water bottles.

Also included in the wallet is a:

- **Reading Record**-for you and the adults in school to record your child's reading experiences. Please record the date, title of the book and a short comment. Please include bedtime stories and conversations about books that take place. For example;  
*"We shared the story 'The Hungry Caterpillar' at bedtime and talked about the food he ate. Billy said he liked to eat strawberries best."*  
*"Billy knew the sounds s a t and p. He tried to blend them together to read the words. He recognised the word 'to'."*
- **Learning to Read at The Cambridge Primary School letter**
- **Phonics Parents Information letter**
- **Comprehension Information** –this contains questions you can ask when you read to your child and when they begin reading too. They may find it quite tricky to answer questions to begin with so you could model the answers to support.

The children will start to bring 'Family Readers' home. As explained in the guidance, these **are not** books they will be able to decode so you will need to read them together. The books are changed weekly so please re-read daily so your child can memorise and recite them. This helps them to develop confidence and to 'see themselves as readers'.

In phonics, the children are continuing Phase 1 that they would have learnt at Preschool. This Phase is focused on listening skills. They will begin Phase 2 and learning letter sounds and tricky words in the next few weeks and will then start to bring home 'Phonic Reader' books. When Phase 2 begins, you will receive a letter every Friday that includes the sounds and tricky words taught that week.

In preparation for this, please send a **small named box** to school by **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September**. This could be a washed out butter tub or a small cardboard box that your child can decorate at school. They will then bring the box home with the idea that you cut up the sounds and words you receive each week and your child keeps them in their decorated box to play games with.

The most effective way to help your child is to encourage them to complete the activities for a few minutes each day as suggested in the phonics letter (available on our website) and the letter you will receive weekly. You can record what you do in your child's reading record.

If you have any questions about phonics, please do not hesitate to ask.

With kind regards,

*STancock*

Miss Tancock