

Faringdon Academy of Schools  
*'Future of Faringdon, Including All, Supporting Everyone to Grow'*

## Faringdon Infant School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

### Important information about home reading

We are so pleased to finally be getting ready to share home reading books with you and your children again after such a long time! You might remember that just before school closed in March, we had written to you to tell you about our new arrangements for reading, and our investment in the reading scheme, **Read, Write Inc.** The information in this letter is a reminder of this and outlines the current arrangements for reading.

Each week your child will bring home the following and keep these for **one week** before changing them in school;

- A new reading book (for most children this will be a **Read Write Inc.** Book but for some children this will be from a different scheme once they are less dependent upon phonics as their main strategy for working out words to read)
- A reading book which they have read before and can enjoy 'showing off' by reading again at home! (Please note that children will not have previously read reading scheme books straight away so won't have this additional book immediately!)
- A book of their choice from the school library or classroom book corner. This book will be entirely their own choice, to share with someone at home and is likely to have content which is beyond their own reading stage. This is really important, as sharing books with more complex content supports them to develop their vocabulary, internalise story or non-fiction language, and to become motivated as a reader (wanting to access books and developing a positive attitude to reading as a pleasurable thing to do).

After a week, when your child returns these books to school, they will be quarantined before being returned to the bookshelves in order to avoid risk of contamination in the event of a member of the class or their family having coronavirus. For the time being, teachers and teaching assistants in school will not be handling and writing in reading record books in order to ensure that these do not come into contact with too many people. Staff will still be reading in school with the children, these reads will just be documented in school rather than in reading record books.

### Getting the most out of Read Write Inc reading Books

Read Write Inc. reading books are closely matched to children's phonic stage of development and are designed to allow children to experience success in reading by bringing home a book which contains the sounds they have been taught and content which they can access by using these sounds alongside some 'tricky' or 'red' words. Read Write Inc reading books always contain a few pages which equip the children to read the story and get the most from it. There are pages introducing or reminding children of the following:

- **Speed Sounds** – these are sounds that your child has been learning in school. On the chart of sounds on this page, there will be circles around the sounds which feature especially in this particular reading book.

- **Story Green Words** – these are words that your child will come across in the story they are about to read, which can be worked out by using phonic knowledge. The child can point to each sound (looking out for places where two or more letters are working together to make one sound) and then blend the word together by saying each sound in order.
- **Story Red Words** – these are words that your child will come across in the story they are about to read which do not follow standard phonic patterns, such as ‘said’, ‘the’ or ‘was’. Children need to develop sight recognition of these words. In many of the books, these red words are printed in red throughout the story to encourage your child to remember that this is a word that they can’t sound out.
- Questions to talk about – this page comes at the end of the story and lists questions to ask and talk about with your child to ensure that they are making sense of their reading and developing comprehension skills. Try not to miss this part out. Children sometimes make progress with decoding words, without actually understanding what the information is telling them.

Your child’s Read Write Inc reading book should be read at home a minimum of three times. This allows the following stages of reading development:

- **First read** – on their first read of the book, take time over the Speed Sounds, Story Green Words and Red Words pages to prepare your child for reading. Then take time to allow your child to read the words of the story, using their phonics to work out any unknown words. If they get stuck, try not to be tempted to tell them the word too quickly. Instead, you can ask them, ‘What can you do when you don’t know a word?’ and encourage them to point to and say each sound aloud before blending them into a word.
- **Second read** – on their second read, children can remind themselves of the Speed Sounds, Story Green Words and Red Words, and then repeat reading the book, ideally with a little more pace and fluency than the first time around. This rehearsal of reading is important to allow children to build enough fluency to really think about what they are reading. This may take additional reads.
- **Third read** – On the third (or further) read, encourage your child to think about the way their voice sounds (their expression) while reading, to check that what they read makes sense, and use the questions in the back of the book to talk about the story and let them show you how much they understand about what they have read.

We hope that you will enjoy being able to share reading books with your children at home again. Their reading development is so important and the significance of parents and carers supporting and reinforcing their learning at home, cannot be emphasised enough. If you have any questions about your child’s reading, please speak to or email your child’s class teacher.

Happy Reading and best wishes,

*Mrs Sally Robins and the FIS Team*