



16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Reception Families,

Following an update from the DfE around phonics teaching last year, the Kite Academy Trust schools now follow the Essential Letters and Sounds phonics programme. This new phonics programme will aim to support your child to make quick progress and become a fluent and confident reader. This week the children in Reception have started daily phonics sessions.

Every Friday, your child will bring home a new decodable book which will be linked to the phonics that has been taught in class that week or in previous weeks. This book may have a white sticker on it so that you can identify them. This book will only be changed on Fridays as part of the Phonics teaching. **Please make sure that your child has their reading folder and books in school on a Friday.**

To best support us in teaching your child how to read, we ask that you read this decodable text **4 times across the week**. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader. Re-reading and revisiting the same book is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelt in different ways.

A key part of learning to read is that children re-read words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency. The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school, with you at home. We will only ask children to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves.

Your child will also bring home with them '**sharing books**'. Initially in Reception these are likely to be picture books (no text) as this supports language, story-telling and using picture cues to support reading. Our early aim is to instil a love of reading for all children, from the very beginning of their reading journey. Please read these books together, with your child reading the words they are able to decode, or you can read them to your child.

If you have any questions or queries along the way, please do not hesitate to contact me or see your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Robinson  
Phonics Lead