



6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Families of Children in Reception,

### Essential Letters and Sounds: Teaching Phonics

Following an update from the DfE around phonics teaching, the Kite Academy Trust schools have moved to Essential Letters and Sounds which is a phonics programme based on Letters and Sounds (2007). This new phonics programme will support your children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers. All staff have completed their training and we have started the programme in school.

As a result of this new Phonics programme, we are in the process of updating how we read with the children in school and how we would like you to support them with reading at home. The home-school reading practice that you are currently familiar with will now change.

As of this week, your child will read decodable books linked to their phonic knowledge, as part of their daily phonics teaching in class. During this daily teaching session, the teacher will teach and consolidate phonics sounds. If your child needs some additional support to secure that week's learning, short interventions will be delivered by support staff to ensure that all children keep up rather than catch up!

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. Your child should be able to fully sound the words out except for the harder to read word/s. This book will 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 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.

### **Nurture, Enrich, Inspire**

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**'. These might not yet be decodable but are there for you to read with your child, helping to instil a love of reading from the very beginning of their reading journey. These could be read together, with your child reading the words they are able to decode, or you can read them to your child.

We have extensive new reading materials, both online and as books, to support the programme. As this is a new home to school reading system, please bear with us in these first few weeks as we establish it in class.

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