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TEACH Trust Poole

Trust Excellence Aspiration Collaboration Honesty

*Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.*

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### *READING AT HOME*

We are so impressed with how well the children have settled into their new classes – most have skipped through the doors in the morning with the biggest smiles! They have already shown us what super learners they are and are keen to take part in all of the activities in class. The children have been busy over the last few weeks exploring our reading corners and other areas of provision in the classroom.

Reading is a top priority in our school – we recognise how important it is for the children to develop into confident and fluent readers. We want to do everything we can to also develop a love for reading with every child, and starting to read early is a key part in this. We understand that your child may have missed a considerable amount of time away from preschool or nursery, and we want them to have the best possible start in school with reading and phonics. Usually, the children receive a level one banded book, containing words, in October. This is once they have learnt some of the individual letter sounds to support them with reading the words within the book.

We will be sending home a picture book for a few weeks prior to your child receiving their first reading book with words. These picture books are a fantastic opportunity to develop your child's vocabulary and language skills. At first it might feel a little strange to sit down to "read" a wordless book with your child but we would like you encourage you to tap into your inner child to give it a go! Here are some tips to get you started:

1. Begin by looking at the cover. What can you see? What clues to the story does the cover illustration show?
2. Read the title. Does the title give you any ideas for what the story might be about? Make predictions about the story based on the cover and title.



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3. Take a picture walk. Look through the pages of the book with the sole purpose of enjoying the pictures. Talk about anything that captures your attention.
4. 'Read' the story. You might go first, inviting your child to add to your story as they see fit. Don't be afraid to tell your story with dramatic flair. Add sound effects and interesting voices that suit the characters of your tale.
5. Encourage your child to take a turn telling their own version of the story.
6. Ask questions about the book — which is your favourite illustration? Do you have a favourite part of the story or a favourite character? Can you tell about a time you have felt like the main character or found yourself in a similar situation?
7. Describe the characters and objects that they see.
8. Introduce new vocabulary to your child and see if they can use the new words when they next look at the book or in different contexts.

Your child will be given the opportunity to change their wordless book twice a week, on a Monday and Friday. Please keep the book in your child's book bag in order for it to be replaced with a new one. We hope you enjoy sharing the books with your child and would love to hear about all of the other books that you read with your child at home. We use a 'Reading Record' to record every time your child reads at school and at home. This book is for you to record the books you read with your child and to make a comment on how well they responded. For every read, they will receive a special star stamp or sticker on a sticker chart in class. These are sent home on a Friday. Please keep the Reading Record in your child's book bag everyday so the class teacher can read your comments.

Your child will also bring home a school library book next week and this book is one for you to enjoy reading to your child.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

Yours faithfully

Early Years Foundation Stage Team



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