



Monday 4th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week your child will be bringing home their first reading books. They will be bringing home two books: one which has been chosen by the teacher, and one which has been chosen by the child (referred to as their *free choice* book). Both need to be kept in their book bags, along with the reading diary, and brought to school **every day**.

Our reading material at school is made up of a variety of books including fiction and non-fiction, from a range of reading schemes. Some of our books are from the Oxford Reading Tree scheme and these stories follow a family. Your first reading book may be one of these, and we would encourage you to use the characters' names as you read together. We will be teaching the children the names of the main characters in the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme, which are:

- Mum
- Dad
- Biff (the girl, whose pony tail & bow is shaped like the 'f' in her name!)
- Chip (Biff's twin brother)
- Kipper (the youngest boy)
- Floppy (the dog)

We have included a sheet for you to keep at home so that you can support your child to learn the names of the characters. These names will soon become part of a bank of whole words which your child will learn to recognise by sight (rather than by using their sounds to read them), so they are essential in early reading success with this particular scheme.

For the first few weeks your child will bring home a picture book **with no words**. These books are key to developing early reading skills. When reading the books together, encourage your child to use the pictures to tell the story, using story language (such as "One sunny day...") and the names of the characters. We have included a note with examples of how to read a picture book, and the free website 'Oxford Owl' is well worth exploring as it contains books that you can read online, with or without narration.

Please can you record in your child's reading diary every time they have read at home and make a short comment about how they have got on with their reading. We would like you to read with your child at least 5 times a week, as reading regularly at home is vital to their progress - and children with at least 5 comments for that week will receive a special sticker!

Please come and see a member of the Early Years team if you have any questions.

Many thanks,
The Early Years Team