

September 2023



Dear Parent/carer

You will notice that your child has brought home their new reading journal and a reading book this week. Parental support is extremely valued at Russell Hall and we recognise the impact it has on children's progress and attainment in reading. Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journal by continuing their practice at home.

From next week, there are two types of reading books that your child will bring home throughout the year:

A reading practice book - this will be at the correct phonic stage for your child and a book they will have read at least three times in school. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level based on their most recent phonics assessments. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it is too easy - your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise - celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

A sharing book - your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together. Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this book alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!



For the academic year 2023/24, reading books will be issued on a Monday and collected the following Monday. Reading/listening to the same book multiple times, will allow children to develop fluency, allows children to pick up new information, dive deeper into the meaning of the book and make connections between themselves and the book - as well as between the book and other books they have read.

As a school, we expect children to read at home three times per week. Research shows that reading regularly at home has a significant positive impact on children's development in reading. When children read three times per week, this is celebrated in class and the children are given a reward in the form of Dojos.

Over the coming weeks, I will be sharing more information on how we teach reading and will be offering parents the opportunity to attend reading workshops.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Smith