



DIOCESE OF LINCOLN
faithful · confident · joyful



The Magdalen Church of England
/ Methodist School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for supporting your child's learning at home.

Please make sure that your child's reading book is in school EVERY day!

For your information, here is the reading routine for the reception class ...

Fridays – Look in your child's book bag for Phonics Home Learning. We will send home the Letter sounds and Tricky words that your child has been learning throughout the week – *please spend just a few minutes each day looking at these with your child and encouraging them to say the sounds that the letters make. The children are not expected to 'sound out' the words – they need to be able to look at them and remember what they say. This takes practise!* The expectation is that, by the half term break, they will be able to look at each letter and say it's sound without any help! (But don't worry if your child isn't there yet – it's early days!)

Your child will bring a picture book home to share with you as well – we would like you to *read this story to your child* – it isn't for them to read (unless they'd like to make up a story by looking at the pictures that is!)

Your child will read their reading book to an adult in school **at least** once per week.

One of the most important things is that your child can talk about what is happening in the story – please encourage them to talk clearly in complete sentences. If they find it tricky – ask 'open-ended' questions to support them – these are questions that can't be answered by a simple yes / no. For example, you could say, "what's he doing?" "How do you think she's feeling now?" etc etc.

We encourage the children to use their phonic skills (robot arms) to sound out and read the words in their book and become increasingly confident and fluent in doing this. Ask us to demonstrate 'robot arms' if you are unsure.



We may change your child's book once they have read it – or we may ask you to practise reading a particular page/s again. Sometimes your child may have the same book a few times – this is good practice. We will have a different focus each time they read eg one time, we may focus on sounding out the words, another time the focus may be modelling how to retell the story or talk about what is happening on a particular page. We have given you a booklet from The Book Trust which provides tips on how to make reading a successful experience for your child. Essentially, just remember the following ...

- ✓ Smile! Be positive. Be encouraging without being pushy.
- ✓ Find a quiet place – turn off the TV!
- ✓ Snuggle!
- ✓ Don't make reading a chore – we want children to become confident, happy readers – build reading into your daily routine but if your child isn't in the mood, don't do it!

Thanks for your support, it really makes a difference!

The children have so much to learn by the end of the year,
– they really need your help.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to come and see us or message on Dojo. *Don't forget to keep checking Tapestry to see what your child is learning at school!*



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