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*Part of the
Fierté Multi-Academy Trust*

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Dear Parents/Carers,

From this week, your child will be bringing home two reading books.

- A reading practice book which has been matched to their phonics learning in school.
- A library book that they can talk about, share and enjoy with you.
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If children are to become lifelong readers, it is essential that they are encouraged to read for pleasure. The desire of wanting to read will help with the skill of reading. Some of the first reading practice books your child will bring home may be wordless or have very few words, but they are very important to your child's reading development. Early books allow children to learn how stories work, including the order and direction in which they read. Your children will enjoy talking about the story and discussing what is happening in the pictures. Sharing wordless books is a terrific way to build important skills, including listening skills, vocabulary and comprehension.

Supporting your child when reading a wordless book:

- Recognise that there are no right or wrong ways to read a wordless book. One of the wonderful benefits of using wordless books is how each child creates his own story, or stories from the same pictures.
- Spend time looking at the cover and talking about the book's title. Based on those two things, make a few predictions about the story.
- Take a picture walk through the pages of the book. Enjoy the illustrations, which are often rich with detail. Look carefully at the expressions on characters' faces, the setting and the use of colour. Talk to each other about what you can see. These conversations will enrich the storytelling.
- Enjoy the pictures and point out a few things, but don't worry too much about telling a story yet. Just enjoy the pictures and get a sense of what the book is about.
- Go back through the book a second time and get ready for some great storytelling! Consider going first and acting as a model for your child. Have characters use different voices, add sound effects and use interesting words in your version of the book.
- Encourage your child to read the book to you. Focus on the words your child uses when he tells the story.
- Help your child expand his sentences or thoughts by encouraging him to add information from the illustration's details. One way to encourage more details is by asking "W" questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why?
- Finish your wordless book sharing by asking a few simple questions:
 - What pictures helped you tell the story?
 - What was your favourite part of your story?
 - Have you had an experience like the one in your story?



Questions to ask your child when reading

Before reading the book:

- Can you point to the title?
- What do you think this story will be about?
- What might happen in the story?

During the reading of the book:

- What is happening here?
- What is _____ doing?
- What might happen next?
- How do you think the story might end?
- Is _____ friendly/ mean/ nice...?
- What does _____ mean? (To check understanding of a word)

At the end of the book:

- Did you like this book? Why?
- What was your favourite part? Why?
- Which character did you like the best? Why?
- Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)?
- What happened in the story?

These are all only suggestions. It is good to talk about the books you are sharing with your child, but it is important not to turn the discussion into a test. The goal is enjoyment.

Please try to listen to your child reading their reading practice book at least three times a week and record a comment in their reading diary. It is important that your child's reading books and diaries are in their book bags each day to support the in-school reading practice sessions.

Library books will be changed on a Friday and the reading practice book will be changed once a week after completion of three reading sessions in school.

In addition to their reading books, your child will bring home a new set of phonics flashcards. Please help your child to practice these sounds at home and orally blend them into words, for example, s-a-t sat, p-i-n pin. To help with the correct pronunciation of the phonemes, the Little Wandle Phase Two sounds can be found online following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shlSORleibs>

Finally, there will be a set of word cards for them to practice and these are words which the children need to learn to read by sight.

To find out more about how you can further support your child with their learning at home, we would like to invite you to a Reading and Phonics workshop after half term. The date and times for the session will be sent out in the first week back.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards,

Mrs Andrea Free
Reading Leader

