



Executive Headteacher: Mr A Raistrick
Head of School: Mr R Chipperfield

Surfleet Primary School
Station Road, Surfleet, Spalding, Lincolnshire. PE11 4DB
Tel: 01775 680373
Email: admin@surfleet.lincs.sch.uk
Website: www.surfleet.lincs.sch.uk

13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Reading Information for Parents

Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in a classroom and in the school. It is taught in specific reading and English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too.

You as parents can support this 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. Reading to and with your child every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. A report from the Oxford University Press highlighted the importance of parents reading with their children. 'Children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age'.

The report also offers six tips for reading with your child at home, including:

1. Make time to read- even ten minutes a day, but a minimum of three days a week
2. Choose different types of books
3. Take turns to read
4. Talk about the book- asking your child questions
5. Pay attention to the language
6. Enjoy reading

Learning To Read At Surfleet

Children learn to read in different ways and at different ages. A vital first stage of a child's development as a reader is to be able to 'read' pictures and to determine what is happening or to predict what might happen from the pictures in a book. As this skill develops, children become able to use their grammatical skills to listen to words within a sentence and to make sense of what they can hear. This is an important tool for the young reader as it enables them to make sensible guesses at unknown words within a sentence and to continue to read for meaning without being stopped in their tracks.

Working collaboratively with Pinchbeck East CofE and Spalding Primary Schools



Most pre-school children are already reading before they start school; they will be able to read the supermarket sign above the shops they visit frequently, McDonalds, Lego and Disney will be easily identifiable to them too! Whilst your young child won't necessarily be able to identify the letters and sounds within those words, they read them because they remember the overall shape of the word. At Surfleet we ensure that children have a good range of high frequency words that they identify without having to ask or sound them out so that they can maintain fluency within their reading, which in turn supports a good understanding of what they have read.

We use a range of reading schemes to support reading development:

- Oxford Reading Tree
- Rigby Star
- Big Cat Collins
- Read, write, inc
- Floppy phonics
- Project X

Teaching Phonics at Surfleet

In addition to these basic reading skills the teaching of phonics is a key focus at Surfleet for our developing readers and writers. We use Letters and Sounds to support the teaching of phonics. We ensure that all children in our Foundation Stage, year 1 and year 2 classes are taught phonic skills through a daily 30 minute discrete phonic lesson. This develops the child's ability to tackle unknown words within a text by blending the phonemes (sounds) within the word. These phonic skills also enable a child to work out the phonemes they will need to use when they are writing words.

The phonic lessons are structured to ensure that children are first able to identify letters and to say the sound those letters make. Once children are confident with saying the single letter sounds and blending them to create words, they then start to learn the common digraphs (where two letters go together to create a new phoneme such as *sh*), trigraphs (where three letters create a new phoneme such as *igh*) and spelling patterns that we use within the English language.

At Surfleet, the key objectives in our phonic, reading and writing lessons are that children are taught to:

- love books and enjoy listening to stories, poems and rhymes
- read and write letter-sound correspondences quickly
- **decode effortlessly**, spell and handwrite easily
- comprehend what they read
- read with fluency and expression
- write confidently using oral rehearsal
- work effectively with a partner or within a group to articulate their learning at every step

At Surfleet we have arranged our scheme books into 6 phases as our phonics programme is structured that way. You will see a white sticker with a number on, on the front of the learning books.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE NOTICE OF THE COLOUR BANDS AND THE STAGE OF THE BACK OF THE BOOKS.

Working collaboratively with Pinchbeck East CofE and Spalding Primary Schools



The reading book your child brings home daily is their 'LEARNING BOOK', because that book will provide all the sounds they are familiar with. Their learning book will support their decoding skills and their ability to memorise the sounds by seeing it on all the pages.

Alongside their learning book the children however are able to choose their reading for pleasure book. This book will **not** match their phonics stage and will not support their decoding skills only their love of books will grow. These reading for pleasure books might be from our reading corner, might be from our book corner or just an old undecodable scheme book.

The children are expected to read their LEARNING BOOK at least three times a week and their pleasure book is just an add on and as and when it suits. Home school communication is vital in the children's development therefore we expect all parents to tell us about their child's reading by making comments in their reading diary.

Kind regards

Mrs A Baxter
Reading Lead

Working collaboratively with Pinchbeck East CofE and Spalding Primary Schools

