



October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Some information for you to help with reading, writing and mathematical skills at home.

Reading Together

Whether you are at home, on the bus, in the shops or at the doctor's surgery, there are countless opportunities to help your child to learn. You can do this by talking with them and reading together, plus there are fun ways to develop their writing skills too.

Reading stories with your child, if only for 10 minutes a day, helps build important skills as well as capturing your child's interest in books.

To help your child become interested in books:

- Spend a few minutes a day telling stories and reading together and make it fun by choosing books you both enjoy, looking through a newspaper or magazine.
- Talk about the pictures and characters in the books and make up your own stories.
- Read as you walk down the street and round the shops, pointing out signs and words and talking about them.

Learning about Letters

As children grow older they begin to understand more about the sounds of our language and can join in with rhymes, songs and stories. Soon they will be able to hear these different sounds in words. Gradually they will learn to match sounds to letters. They use this knowledge when they are reading and writing.

To help this learning process you can:

- Sing nursery rhymes and songs together, sometimes pointing to the words in a book.
- Play games with sounds, making up silly words that all begin with the same sound (for example, the first sound in their name).
- Get your child to spot letters they recognise in words (for example, the first letter of their name).
- Look at brochures and catalogues together, pointing out words printed in bold or with unusual fonts.
- Play 'I spy', as children get older, to help them listen to the sounds different words begin with.



Weekly Reading

Weekly your child will bring home their reading book to share with you. We encourage you to share the story and discuss this using the pictures as prompts. Please return the book to school daily so that your teacher can listen to your child read and share the book also.

Developing Early Writing Skills

Your child will notice adults around them reading and writing and they will want to copy them. From a young age, children enjoy experimenting with making marks. The more opportunities your child has to develop large and small movement in their arms, hands and fingers, the better. This will make it easier to make marks with a variety of tools.

You can help your child by:

- Doing activities like digging, 'painting' outdoor surfaces with water and a large brush, sweeping and swishing a scarf through the air in different shapes.
- Hanging out the washing, using a peg board and picking up grains of rice with fingers, which all help develop the grip needed for writing.
- Helping them to make marks on paper with their fingers, brushes and crayons.
- Helping them write labels, birthday cards and invitations.

Recognising Shapes and Numbers

Your child will start to take an interest in and notice shapes and numbers around them, concentrating on a few shapes and numbers will help your child recognise the differences between them. They will become accustomed to looking around particularly during car journeys, for shapes and numbers within the environment around us.

You can help your child by:

- Talking about simple shapes, such as circles, squares, triangles.
- Helping them to complete simple jigsaws and recognising shapes which go together.
- Work with first few numbers 1-5, sing songs with numbers and count regular items, such as going up or down stairs.
- Use the environment to spot numbers on road signs, or play games like counting specific coloured cars.

We hope these are a few ideas which will encourage your child to develop their early reading, writing and mathematical skills.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mrs W Cooper
EYFS Lead