

## Oak and Willow Classes

### How to support reading at home.

Regular reading at home with your child is one of the best ways you can support their learning. Here are a few reminders of the ways you can help your child to develop their reading skills:

- Look through your child's reading books with them first. Talk about what might happen, if they spot things in the pictures that relate to words in the text especially new and more difficult words then point these words out to your child.
- Encourage your child to use their phonics to work out new or unfamiliar words. Make sure that you and your child use the 'pure' letter sound without adding an 'uh' sound, this can make it much more difficult for a child to blend the letter sounds together to read a word.
- Use picture cues if they will help, for example a child may be able to work out a new or longer word by recognising and using the first letter sound and the picture.
- Let them have a go at trying a word to see if it 'fits' in with what they read. Ask them – 'Does that make sense?'
- Allow them to make small mistakes if it doesn't change the meaning or 'flow' of their reading. It is also fine to tell them the odd word if they are really stuck to keep the pace of their reading – as long as it's not too often!
- Take turns to share reading parts or pages of a book, especially their 'star' books but always encourage them to read at least part of their reading books. As their reading stamina grows they will be able to tackle longer chunks of a book in one go.
- Ask your child simple questions before and after reading a story. Encourage them to think about what might happen, using the pictures to help or ask them to tell you about their favourite part or character. As their reading develops you could talk about why things have happened in a story and how and why characters might feel or act.
- Make time to read to your child, ask grand –parents, brothers, sisters, friends and family to help you make this a real priority. It doesn't always have to be stories, choose what interests and inspires your child and you. Go on a reading journey together!



## Oak and Willow Classes

### Learning words with 'tricky bits' – your word cards at home

Each of the words on the cards we give out are introduced, taught and regularly revisited during our daily phonic sessions where we learn to read them, and to write some of the words when children are ready to do this.

Here are a few tips to help your child with learning to read their words with tricky bits at home.

- When introducing a new word we look at the part of the word that is 'easy' i.e. can be sounded out correctly and then which part of the words is the 'tricky bit' i.e. is not able to be sounded out using their phonic skills. This approach is particularly useful as it does not present the whole word as 'tricky' to the children which can automatically make children think that they may find the word too difficult to read. We often say to them: 'Don't let the tricky bits trick you!'
- For example: When we learn the word 'the' we focus on 'th' as being the 'easy bit' as we can sound this out using our phonics but 'e' in 'the' is a 'tricky bit' because it does not make the sound 'e', it makes the sound 'u'. Sometimes we draw a box around the 'tricky bit' when we write these words down to draw attention to the part that is tricky. In 'said' it is 's' and 'd' that are the easy bits with 'ai' being the 'tricky bit' because they make the sound 'e'.
- We also use this approach when teaching children how to write and spell these words. By July many, but not all, children should be able to correctly write the words on the yellow word cards, with some children able to correctly write the words on the pink and blue word cards too.
- Carry on playing the games with your word cards and remember that every child is different and will learn these words at a pace that is appropriate to them. We would rather that they have the time to become secure with fewer words than have so many to learn that they become disheartened.
- We will be demonstrating these approaches at our spring learning at home workshop in a few weeks time so please do try to come along or ask us if you have any questions.