



# Castle View Primary and Nursery School

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Castle View Primary and Nursery School  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Following an update to all schools from the Department for Education around phonics teaching, we have moved to a programme called Essential Letters and Sounds. There is no change to how your child is taught to read so there is nothing you need to worry about. What has changed slightly is the use of picture clues to support your child in identifying new sounds. We will send home the new phonics mat we are now using in school to support the children, so you can use the same at home too.

To support your child learning to read, we ask that you read the decodable text provided by your child's class teacher at least four times across the week. This will allow your child to re-read each text several times, building their confidence and fluency. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelled in different ways. Please log your reading sessions in your child's orange reading book. A simple comment of 'read with Mum' is all you need to write, or you can leave a further message for the teacher.

Spending just 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them on their journey to becoming an independent reader. For children, re-reading words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision) is a key part of learning to read. By reading texts several times, children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency.

The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home. We will only ask children to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves.

Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be sent home as a read for pleasure/ sharing book. These books will be sent home for you to read with your child, helping us to instil a love of reading from the very beginning of their reading journey. These could be read together with your child reading the words they are able to decode or could be read to your child.

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to your class teacher.

Kind regards

Mrs V Edwards  
Deputy Headteacher/Early Reading Leader

