

Dear Parents/Carers,

Learning to read: supporting your child at home

Learning to read is one of the most important skills that your child will develop over the next few years. The more support and encouragement that you can offer your child, the more likely it is that he or she will make good progress.

At school we are using the *Oxford Reading Tree* series to take your child through the early stages of learning to read. We are using the *Floppy's Phonics* teaching programme, which is a step-by-step phonics reading scheme. It introduces the children to the letters and sounds (the alphabetic code) that are at the foundation of all reading and writing.

To reinforce the teaching in school, your child may bring home some books to share with you. These may be:

- *Floppy's Phonics Decoding Practice* books, to practise each set of new sounds and letters taught at school and consolidate learning.
- *Floppy's Phonics* decodable readers to practise reading stories and different text types.

All the books have notes on the inside cover to guide you on how to share them with your child.

BEFORE READING
Talk about the book
Look at the cover and read the title. Ask: Do you think the shark and the fish are friends? Why? / Why not? What do you think might happen in this story?
Say the sounds
Practise reading the focus sounds on the opposite page. These are the sounds your child has learned most recently.
Blend the sounds to read the words
Practise reading the words on the opposite page. These words contain the focus phonemes (sounds) for this book. Point under each grapheme (letter or letter group) as you say the phoneme, then run your finger under the whole word as you say the whole (or blended) word, e.g.
sh-ar-p sharp
Practise the helpful words
These words are common but your child may find them challenging to read:
again be are she they you
DURING READING
Enjoy the story together. If your child needs support to read a particular word:
• break it down into sections, help them to sound it out and blend the sounds together, e.g. l-ur-k-s
• say the whole word for your child if necessary.

Sharky and Floss

by Jan Burchett and Sara Vogler
Illustrated by Duc Nguyen

Say the sounds.

/ar/	ar as in arm
/or/	or as in fork
/ur/	ur as in purse

Blend the sounds to read the words.

sharp	lurks	torn
turns	short	dark

Written by Jan Burchett and Sara Vogler
Illustrated by Duc Nguyen

We may also send home Grapheme and Picture Tiles, Activity Sheets, Cumulative Texts, *Activity Books* and *Say the Sounds Posters* for your child to practise phonics at home.

You may like to visit www.oxfordowl.co.uk for further information about phonics, helping your child to read and for free resources and eBooks.

Best wishes,