



Reading at Home in Year 1

We aim to instil a life-long love of reading in children who read for both pleasure and for a purpose and know that a positive partnership with parents is key to achieving this. Reading at home as often as possible is one of the most important ways you can support your child.

In Year 1, as well as weekly Phonics Challenges, your child will be able to practise their reading at home in three different ways.

1. **Phase book** based on individual phonics assessments. Up to three Phase books will be sent home **weekly**.

Phase books enable children to successfully practise their **word reading** skills and should be read to you **by** your child. These books are carefully matched to your child's phonic 'Phase'. Children should be able to read these **effortlessly**, with a **high level of fluency** that enables them to transfer and apply phonic knowledge and experience a **sense of achievement**. They should read familiar words 'at a glance'— that is, no longer saying the sounds consciously. New guidance published in the [DfE's Reading Framework](#) repeatedly emphasises the importance of **re-reading** a phonics based text in order to develop children's fluency.

2. **Shared Reader book** based on individual comprehension assessments. Shorter texts will be changed **weekly**.

A Shared Reader book will be shared in a small group weekly **comprehension** session with a teacher, using our child-friendly '**Reading Tools**' approach to teach key reading skills. Please find attached a handout explaining the skill each 'tool' develops, with associated comprehension questions. A copy of this is also in your child's Learning Log to help you support your child's reading development. We would like you to read this book **with your child at home too**. Your child may need support reading unknown words and will benefit from re-reading and discussing the book with you. Please keep Shared Readers in book bags, as reading days may vary.

3. **Library book** independently chosen by your child from our school library. These are changed **weekly**.

These may be read **by, with or to** your child, depending on their book choice. We strongly encourage reading **aloud to** your child regularly, even as they become accomplished readers. Research shows that giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns.

We **welcome comments** about any of the above books that you read at home. Please record these on the weekly reading sheet in your Learning Log. Comments from both children and relatives are welcome and help teachers to keep track of home reading.

We would like to draw your attention to the [Phonics](#) and [Reading virtual parent presentations](#) (password Chestnut) which are available on our [school website](#), along with a range of useful resources including FAQs. Some top tips on encouraging children to read can also be found [here](#).