



## Book bags, Reading Records and our celebration 'Reading Clouds'

At South Stanley Infant's we love reading, and we want all our children to become lifelong lovers of books. We know that reading at home with their families has a huge impact on the success of our children. Research shows that regular reading has a positive effect on children's reading skills but also develops other areas such as concentration and empathy – most importantly children begin to develop an appreciation of reading as they get better at it. It is a fact that children who read regularly tend to do better in all areas, so we aim, through sharing our approach to reading, to support you in reinforcing positive reading habits with your child.

### OUR REPEAT READING APPROACH

Our school uses a 'repeat reading' approach (reading the same book more than once). This means your child will keep the same home reading book for several days, and often all week, especially when they are starting their reading journey.

The benefits of repeat reading are that your child will become a confident, fluent reader and develop a deeper understanding of what they read.

It involves...

- **reading the first time to 'decode'** - using phonics ('say the sound, say the word') to work out what the words on the page are
- **reading next to understand the words** – talking about what unusual or new words mean, making sense of what has been read
- **reading after that to understand the story (comprehension)** – to become truly familiar with the story / book, being able to answer questions about the story / what has been read, to make links to previous experiences, to discuss and understand the sequence of events
- **reading for pleasure!** – enjoying the story, using a story teller voice when reading, and reading with fluency (speed, ease and understanding)

### READING AT HOME



- We ask that you listen to your child read **A MINIMUM OF THREE TIMES A WEEK**, aiming for **FIVE TIMES A WEEK**, following the thinking behind repeat reading (as above).
- Your child's teacher will write the 'week beginning' date at the top of the reading record book page for the week, then list Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, Day 5 down the side column.
- Please sign your child's reading record **EVERY TIME YOU READ WITH YOUR CHILD**.

- Please add a comment about your child's reading (please see examples of possible comments).

*\*Key Stage 1 parents, please remember that if your child is reading a longer book, they may only read a few pages every day - we wouldn't expect them to read the whole book daily – please just write the page numbers read when you sign the reading record book.*

- PLEASE RETURN YOUR CHILD'S BOOK BAG ON MONDAY – after school on Monday, your child's teacher will read your comments, make a return comment, change their book and their book bag will be returned to you ON TUESDAY.
- PLEASE RETURN YOUR CHILD'S BOOK BAG ON THURSDAY – we will do a quick check in and return it the same day.
- We will monitor how often you and your child have read together and celebrate this on our reading clouds.

***Please see the overview at the back of your child's reading record book for a further explanation of our reading cloud challenge.***

- Where possible your child's book will link to previous phonic learning so that they should be able to blend (use their letter sounds knowledge) to read new words. Where there is no linked book, existing quality resources will be used which will be closely matched to your child's current phonic understanding.
- If your child encounters a word they cannot blend or find tricky, tell them what it is, and encourage them to 'have another go' the next time they see that word.
- Give your child lots of praise – learning to read is tricky and your support listening to them read daily is invaluable.

### READING CLOUDS

- To encourage your child to read at home to you as much as possible, we have a reading cloud challenge in school.
- For each day that your child reads to you at home, they will be placed on the coordinating cloud. There are five clouds, 'I have read once this week', 'I have read twice this week' ... up to 'I have read five times this week'. Every week your child's teacher will check their reading record book to see how many times they have read (please remember we are asking for a minimum of three times a week but aiming for five times a week). Your child's achievements will be celebrated in class and those who achieve the highest cloud (five times a week) will get a special congratulations from Mrs Thompson and a little reward!
- *We do appreciate that there may some weeks where it is difficult to read five nights per week - but remember the more you read together, the better for your child.*



*Thank you for your continued support*

<b>Examples of comments you could use in your child's reading record book...</b>
My child used phonics to 'say the sounds, read the word'.
My child struggled to read words containing the sound...
My child was able to read this book with lots of help / some help / little help.
My child could talk about what the words in the story meant.
My child found it hard to remember words they had seen on the previous page.
My child read at a steady pace.
My child self-corrected when he/she made a mistake.
My child did not spot when he/she made a mistake.
My child spotted full stops / exclamation marks and used them to read with expression.
My child asked questions about the story.
My child could answer simple questions about the story.
My child could predict what might happen next in the story.
My child found it hard to talk about what might happen next in the story.
My child needed help to remember what happened at the end of the story.
My child could talk about the different characters.
My child knew where the story was happening and talked about the story setting.
My child retold the story, remembering lots of details.
My child enjoyed this book because it was... funny / spooky / a mystery.