

Welcome to Reception and our Reading Journey!

We are so excited to start our reading journey at school! We are sending home your child's reading diary, which you will need to write in every time you hear your child read. It is really helpful for us to read these comments to know how your child is getting on with their reading, sounds and understanding of the book. We have included a wordless reading book to enjoy with your child and for your child to practise their early 'reading' skills. We have also included a 'take home book' which you can share with and read to your child. Please bring your reading book, reading diary and book bag to school **everyday**. We will change your child's reading book and take home book on a **Friday** and they will keep these books to read at home for the week.

We are at the beginning of our reading and phonics journey. Our wordless books are full of wonderful pictures for your child to look at and talk about. You will need to:

- Name what is in the picture
- Describe the picture
- Discuss the picture
- Say and listen to the sounds each of the items and animals make
- Use the pictures to tell stories
- Use the pictures to develop language and vocabulary
- Answer questions about the pictures

These wordless books are aimed at getting your child familiar with books, pictures and stories created. They are for discussion, as well as developing and understanding language and vocabulary. Wordless books are introduced to begin to develop vocabulary and reading skills, sometimes phonic skills, and sometimes storytelling skills. We are just beginning our phonics journey. We will be sending home wordless books for your child to talk about and answer questions. Once we have learnt our initial sounds and your child can orally segment, blend and recognise these sounds, we will progress on to Phase 2 books, which will then use these sounds to practise segmenting and blending words and phrases.

In the initial phases of early reading, it is really important for a child to read the same book more than once. This helps to become familiar with the pictures, the story and story language. It also helps to improve confidence, improve fluency, develop their comprehension and their understanding. It is helpful to revisit the books, and discuss pages, pictures and later on words, that are unfamiliar, or were not discussed previously. In some of the books, there are handy tips to help you. Please ensure you are reading the same reading book every night, or at least three times a week. This will help your child decode (read the words), practise prosody (reading with fluency and expression) and their comprehension (understanding of the book).

As part of our Reading Challenge at Saltergate we would like the children to be reading **at least 3 times a week** and preferably every week night. This gives the children plenty of time to practise and revisit the books you have been given to explore and read together. If you can read more than 3 times a week, this will help your child's reading to progress. For your child to receive a reading star for that week, they need to have read 3 times and we would like you to sign their reading diary, if you would like to write a comment on how your child has read, that would be lovely. You can also read books you have at home with your child and record these in your reading diary as well.

We are really looking forward to starting our reading journey with your child and encouraging a love of reading, stories and books! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask!

Thank you for your continued support

The Reception Team