



Freemantle

Church of England Community Academy
Creativity. Fellowship. Courage.



We are making changes to the books your child brings home to read this year.

Dear Parents and Carers in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2,

The UK government has directed us to make changes to the books we send home with our early readers across school.

Early readers are pupils who learn to read through phonics in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2, as well as some pupils who continue to learn phonics in Years 3-6.

Phonics is the way we teach early reading and is vital to your child's success in school.

The UK government has told us we must provide books which are *fully-decodable*. This means they only contain sounds (such as /s/ or /ch/) that your child has been taught.

Research has shown that pupils can be put off reading if they see too many words which they cannot read because they have not been taught the sounds in them. It can also make reading harder as a result of pupils having to tackle words and sounds they simply do not know.

This example shows what it can be like for children who have not been taught to read all of the sounds in a book.

He cξξδld seδ a smδls on
the faΨΨ of the witc€.

Passages like this can be frustrating for children who are learning to read.

What this means for your child:

Pupils learning phonics who have reached the first reading milestone of being able to read the sounds /s/, /a/, /t/, /p/, /i/, /n/ within words fluently will begin to bring home fully-decodable Big Cat books every day.

They should return their old books to their teacher on Mondays and Thursdays, so it can be swapped for a new book.

At home, they should read with an adult every day to practise what they have learned in school.

This means they will re-read the same book several times a week. This gives your child time to master the sounds they have been taught.

Please fill out the home-school reading record that will come home with your child's fully-



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What can I do to help if my child isn't bringing home fully-decodable books yet? What other texts can my child read even if they are bringing home fully-decodable books?

Your child will continue to have free choice of books from the school library to bring home and we encourage all parents to make use of local bookshops and libraries to provide books at home. Spending time hearing **you** read these books to your child will help them to develop their own reading as they listen to the sounds you make when you read and develop positive reading habits and a love of reading which will set them up to succeed in school.

If you are concerned about your child's reading progress, please speak to your child's class teacher who will be able to support you to help them in this vital year.

We've read this book several times now...

New guidance from the government based on educational research shows children need many opportunities to practise using the sounds they have learned to become fluent, confident readers. Pupils in school will have already read the books they bring home to you; they are being given opportunities to practise to become better readers.

As children become more familiar with a book, they develop the fluency and confidence required to become good readers. Providing your child with the chance to get to know a book by practising it regularly is part of learning to read. As your child becomes more confident with a book, you can spend more time discussing vocabulary or what is happening in the book, opening up new discussions and developing speaking and listening skills alongside reading.

How do we use the front and back pages of the books?

The first page of a decodable book contains all the words your child will encounter in the text. Spend a moment at the start of your daily reading listening to your child read them and helping them to sound out the word if they get it wrong.

The 'Talk about it' section provides questions to help prompt your child to discuss books.

At the back of most books, there is an 'After reading' section which provides detailed guidance on how to get the most out of reading.

In some books, there is also a 'Comprehension' section which provides questions to ask your child to check their understanding of what they have read

When your child begins to read Big Cat books, please remember to return them every Monday and Thursday so they can be swapped for a new book.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Seymour
Key Stage 2 and Reading Lead



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