



Friday 3rd October 2025

Phonics and Early Reading Updates

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you about our upcoming assessment of your child's reading level and their understanding of *Red Words* as part of the reading and phonics program.

What are Red Words?

Red Words are those words that children cannot sound out using phonics rules and so they need to be learned by sight. These words often appear frequently in all levels of reading books and are essential for your child's reading fluency, automaticity and comprehension. Examples of Red Words include common words we say and read every day such as *"said," "one,"* and *"was."* Since Red Words don't follow phonetic patterns, it is crucial for children to memorise them to read smoothly and with understanding. The children are not introduced to the Red Words in one go. They are introduced gradually throughout the colour book band they are reading, getting progressively more difficult.

Reading Levels and Assessment Process

Each child is working through reading books at different levels, often referred to by their colour. As part of our ongoing assessment, children will be tested on their ability to read and spell the Red Words associated with their current book level. This will ensure that they not only recognise these words but also understand their spelling. Mastery of Red Words will support their overall reading progress as these words are found in books at every reading level.

To help reinforce their learning at home, your child will bring home a '**Red Word keyring**' with the Red Words they need to practice for their current reading level. Please take time to go over these words with your child, helping them build confidence in reading and spelling them correctly.

Once your child successfully reads and spells all the Red Words for their current level, they will be rewarded with a coloured rosette. This rosette will signify their achievement and readiness to move to the next reading level, motivating them to continue their learning journey. When a child receives a rosette, we celebrate this as much as possible to encourage them to learn more and to instil the love of reading.

The Importance of Red Words

Red Words are an integral part of your child's reading experience. As these words appear frequently in everyday texts, knowing them by sight will significantly improve their reading fluency and

accuracy. By learning to read and spell Red Words accurately, your child will be better equipped to tackle more complex texts as they advance through the reading levels.

We encourage you to support your child at home by reviewing the Red Words on their keyring regularly, ensuring they are confident in recognising and spelling them. You can do this in the car on the way to swimming, whilst you're making tea or as a game in the evening. Every little bit of practise helps your child become a more confident reader. Together, we can ensure they build a strong foundation for reading success.

If you have any questions or would like further information about how the Red Words fit into the RWI program, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,
Alison Cleary
Year Group Lead

Green Books
your
said
you
be
he
are

Red Books
the
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no
of
my
for *

Purple Books
to
me
go
baby
all
like
paint *

Pink Books
I've
all
we
want
her
call
she
washing *

Orange Books
what
do
they
old
so
some
there
was

Yellow Books
saw
watch
school
small
their
were
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brother
I'm
fall *
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