**Things that you can do to support your child at home**

You can have a big impact upon your child’s reading and their phonic journey in a number of ways.

* **Read with your children regularly.** When your child is in Reception and they have begun to build a knowledge bank of sounds they will begin to take home reading books. Your child will take home a phonetically decodable book and a reading for pleasure book.

When you read the phonics book it is important to work through the sounds with your child that are in the front cover as well as look at the common exception words. It really helps your child if you read the book more than once (3 times would be great) the first gives them a chance to decode, the second time they will become quicker and more fluent and the third read builds their confidence.

The reading for pleasure books is a great book to stimulate conversation about what is happening in the book as you read and is great for developing vocabulary.

* **Ask your child about the sounds that they have been learning.** Each week your child will be focusing on 2 new sounds and the more that they can share what they have learnt and the more that they can try and apply it to everyday life the quicker the sounds stick in their memories.
* **Work through any support activities that might come home**. At times we may send home flash cards or phonics activities for children to practice at home. Taking the little and often approach really helps support your child and helps them to become more confident.
* **Listening for their phonics sounds as they write using their fingers**. As your children write at home encourage them to break up a word and count the sounds that they hear on their fingers of their left hand (we have found if they are left handed it is better to do this with their right so it does not impact their writing).

**e**.g. when writing ‘goat’ - g (one finger) oa (one finger) t (one finger) 3 sounds- 3 fingers.