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Reading With Your Child, Autumn 2025

Dear Parents,

In Foundation Stage 2 children begin by taking home 'a book from our book corner of their own choice'. Your child can change these books as often as they like. Do not be surprised if your child chooses to read the same book over and over again. Familiar books are comforting, enjoyable and build confidence. These books help to build the children's interest and love of books; gives them the experience of different types of books and helps practise reading skills eg looking at the pictures, talking about stories etc. These books are ideal for sharing with parents.

The next set of books your child will bring home will be a Lilac sticker book (no words), then they move onto the Bug Club books which are phonic based and will contain the phonics your child is learning in class. The other colour sticker book is a non-Bug Club book, which has some decodable words. This is to be shared with a grown up and support given to reading some of the text. These begin with Pink, then Red and then Yellow stickers.

ALL children will begin with a Lilac book even if your child already knows some sounds or words. It is an essential developmental phase for retelling stories, discussing characters and answering questions. Let your child talk about the pictures. This helps them look for meaning and to think about they see happening on the page. Remember to ask questions.

For example,

- What do you see on this page?
- How do you think the character feels? Why?
- What do you think will happen next?

When you have finished, talk about how your child feels about the book.

- What did you like?
- What didn't you like?
- What can you remember about what happened?
- Who was your favourite character?
- Can you remember when we did something similar?

When your child moves onto books with words, please be aware that your child is not expected to read **ALL** the words at first. Begin by talking about the pictures and then read the text together. Reading at home for just ten minutes a day makes a HUGE difference and choose a time that suits everyone. Aim to read **AT LEAST** four times a week.

Finally, and most importantly, make reading fun. We want reading to be a skill your child enjoys and takes with them into adulthood.

Many thanks,

Foundation 2 Team