

South Bersted CE Primary School

Church Lane
Bognor Regis
West Sussex
PO22 9PZ

Tel: 01243 821678
office@southbersted.co.uk
www.southbersted.co.uk



Headteacher: Mr Noel Goodwin

8th September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Reading and Phonics

Welcome to Year 1. We thought we would write to you to outline a few things about reading and phonics in year 1.

What will my child be reading?

The books that the children come home with are sometimes slightly longer than the ones they had in Reception. Our expectation is that they read for 5 minutes every night. This means they probably will not read the whole book during one evening and we would not expect them to. The idea behind their reading book is to look for the sounds in it that they have been learning in their phonics lessons. A homework sheet will come home on Friday each week with these sounds on it. This sheet can go on a fridge somewhere at home so it is clearly visible to the children throughout the week.

When will they change their books?

The children will change their books in the morning at school as and when they need to, so this won't be every morning. The books in year 1 have more words in them so they are likely to keep the same book for almost a week reading only 5 minutes a day. Sometimes it is important to re-read the books too which helps with fluency.

What will they be learning in phonics?

The children are beginning basics 4 during their phonics lessons. During this phase the children don't learn any new sounds like they have done in the previous phases of phonics but it is more about adjacent consonants and polysyllabic words. This enables the children to blend and read longer words so that their reading becomes more fluent. It will also help their writing and spelling to hear more sounds in words when writing. We do this through two characters, Jazzy Jack and Magic Mack. The children will begin meeting these fictitious characters next week and hopefully will be talking about them. They help the children to say the word a little bit louder and a little bit longer so we can hear those extra sounds, e.g. brick. The children may blend and read this word as bick instead or brick as they miss out the 'r' adjacent consonant when they are blending it. This is the same when they are writing the word. We will spend around 6 weeks on this phase before moving on to learn new sounds again in Basics 5 - the next level up.



How often should we be reading?

The children should read at home every night and once over the weekend. Please find a time that suits you to listen to them read whether it is in the morning, evening or straight after school. It is so important at this age to read every day. Please write in your child's reading record that you have listened to them read. At school we check these daily and the children get a green dojo each time they read at home and if they read every night (5 times a week) they get 3 extra dojos, so there is a real incentive for them to read as much as possible. We operate a reading raffle here too so if the children read every day for a week then they also get a raffle ticket which goes into a draw for that child to win a book. This happens each term and the more times your child reads every week they get more tickets in the raffle.

Can I come into school and hear my child read?

New for this year! We would like to invite you into school to read with the children every week on a Tuesday afternoon. During this time, we will meet in the hall and sit and share a book. The children will read their phonics book to you and point out some of the sounds/things we have learnt in phonics during the week. If you can't make it don't worry we will pair the children up so they are reading to someone and listening to their friend read. The children will have their reading diary with them and you can write straight into their diary that they have read to you. This will count as reading on a Tuesday so that saves you doing your reading at home unless you want to do extra!! These sessions will begin on Tuesday 18th September and continue on a Tuesday for the rest of the term. They will start at 3pm and finish at 3.15pm. You will be able to take your child home straight from the hall on a Tuesday afternoon. We hope you can make these sessions!

Thank you for your on-going support at home with reading and phonics.

Yours Sincerely,

For Mrs Gabb and Mrs Leeper

