Dear Parents and Carers,

Your child is bringing home their first reading book today! They have been given a named reading bag containing a reading diary and a reading book. We would really appreciate it if you could look after these and bring them into school each day.

The first books will be picture books. The idea of these books is to get the children talking about the characters and the story, and explain what they think is happening. These are really important skills for the children to learn and will help to develop their comprehension skills. You can help by asking your child questions about what they think is happening and how they think the characters might be feeling.

When we feel your child is ready, we will give them a book with words. These will contain sounds that your child has been learning in class, and they will practise blending these sounds to make the word. You and your child will be able to select a book that you think they will enjoy. The children have groups and you will need to take a book from their group box.

We would encourage you to read with your child every day, or at least 3 times a week, as it really helps them to develop their skills as a reader. In school we teach them the sounds and letters to represent the sounds. We also teach them to blend sounds together for reading and practise comprehension skills that enable them to talk about the story and enjoy their reading. Unfortunately we don’t have time to listen to all the children read 1:1 regularly so spending time reading with your child at home gives them time to practise the skills they learn in school.

When you have read with your child, please record it in their reading diary and make any comments you feel are relevant, for example if they struggled with any words, or they were able to answer the questions you ask. This is really helpful in letting us know if you have any concerns and how their reading is progressing at home.

This is a really exciting year for your child’s reading development, and you will be amazed at how much they will learn this year. We are looking forward to starting this journey with you and thank you for all your support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to one of us.

The Reception Team ☺