



AM/LH

8 November 2016

Dear Parent/Carers

### READING AT MOWBRAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Phonics and Early Reading - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

As you will be aware, we have been moving to a new phonics and reading scheme since September. The initial assessments to place children on the phonics scheme are now complete.

We have chosen to use "Phonics Bug" as our early reading and phonics programme. This choice was due to;

- a) The programme's systematic layout,
- b) The programme's emphasis on applying phonics skills to reading and spelling at the same time,
- c) The programme's approach to teaching upper and lower case letters as well as the letter names and the sounds they produce,
- d) The fact that Phonics Bug has an integrated reading scheme that supports the lessons and the sounds being taught.

Throughout Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) we have grouped the children by their stage on the phonics scheme rather than by class or age. This allows for all children to be taught in groups at a similar stage in their reading development. We have also timetabled so that phonics is taught for 30 minutes daily from 9am.

I have also made full use of as many staff as possible to reduce group sizes; most children will be taught in groups of up to 10.

Reading and Spellings will be set by the adult leading your child's group. This may not necessarily be your child's teacher. However, your child's teacher is responsible for monitoring your child's progress. All groupings will be reviewed in line with assessments on a half termly basis.

Reading books are available online in your child's virtual learning area of phonics bug. This can be accessed using their username and password at; [www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk)

(please note the school code is mowb)

This website can be accessed via PC, laptop, ipad, smartphone, xbox/playstation with internet browser. Some hard copies of books will be made available in extreme cases where there is no internet available at home.

In order for you to see how we are teaching phonics and early reading, as well as to give you an opportunity to see the learning platform and the reading books, Mrs Dodds (English Subject Lead) will be running information sessions on the following dates/times:

- Friday 11 November 2016 from 9am – 9.45am
- Tuesday 15 November 2016 2.30pm – 3.15pm
- Thursday 17 November 2016 3.30pm – 4.15pm

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Mrs Dodds will also be available to answer any questions about the programme at these meetings. If you would like to attend one of the information sessions, please indicate that you wish to do so by returning the slip at the end of this letter.

If you would like further information but are unable to attend any session, please contact Mrs Dodds directly.

#### Supporting Your Child With Reading at Home

In the Summer Term last year, Mrs Dodds ran an information session for parents, on how to support your child's decoding skills (reading of words). This was well received by those in attendance. Mrs Dodds will now offer workshop 2 – Supporting with Comprehension. This will be on Tuesday 22 November from 2.15pm – 3.15pm.

Please note that attendance at workshop 1 is not essential in order to attend workshop 2.

Mrs Dodds will again offer workshop 1 – supporting your child to decode (phonics and reading words) on Tuesday 7 February 2017.

If you would like to attend any of these sessions, please indicate on the return form at the end of this letter.

#### Volunteer Readers

In order to support the development of reading skills, we are also asking if anyone has any spare time they would wish to volunteer in order to help listen to children read.

This may only be 30 mins or an hour per week but it would offer a very rewarding experience as well as benefitting the children.

**Please note: Any volunteers would be placed with classes that did not contain their own children. Also, all volunteers would need to successfully complete our safeguarding checks including a full Disclosure and Barring Service and Criminal Records checks before starting to volunteer.**

If you would be prepared to volunteer some time to hear children read, please indicate on the reply slip below and Mrs Dodds will contact you in due course.

Yours sincerely

**Mr A Miller  
Headteacher**



**READING AT MOWBRAY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Parent/Carer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Name(s) and Class(es): \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in attending the information session for Phonics Bug on;

- ☐ Friday 11 November 2016 from 9am – 9.45am
- ☐ Tuesday 15 November 2016 from 2.30pm – 3.15pm
- ☐ Thursday 17 November 2016 from 3.30pm – 4.15pm

I am interested in attending the information session for workshop 2 – supporting with comprehension (Supporting your Child with Reading at Home) on;

- ☐ Tuesday 22 November 2016 from 2.15pm – 3.15pm

I am interested in attending the information session for workshop 1 – supporting your child to decode (phonics and reading words) on;

- ☐ Tuesday 7 February 2017

- ☐ I would like to volunteer to hear children read

Parents/carers please indicate which session(s) you are interested in attending and return this slip to school.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_