

12.3.18

Dear parents/carers,

Following some of the discussions had during parent's evening we thought it might be useful if we sent home some information and activity ideas for you to use to further support your child with phonics, reading and handwriting.

Phonics activity ideas (yellow sheet of paper): I have listed some game/activity ideas you can use to help your child learn focus sounds.

Reading (green sheet of paper): This sheet shows a table of decodable words and tricky words that your child will encounter through the teaching of our phonics scheme 'letters and sounds'. The game/activity ideas on the yellow sheet can be adapted to help your child learn the tricky words as well as the sounds.

Handwriting (white sheet of paper): We are sending home sheets that build on the skills needed for writing.

Key points to remember when supporting your child with their handwriting:

- Mark making – drawing/colouring is the start of developing the skills for writing.
- Improving fine motors skills – cutting, sticking, picking up small items and placing items correctly into place, building puzzles – all helps develop the skills needed for writing.
- Improving gross motor skills – playing games that require large arm movements and movements in different ways eg making round movements, straight movements, movements in different directions using arms and shoulders all helps to develop the muscles needed for writing.
- Finding a reason to write is important when encouraging emergent writing: making lists, notes, copying favourite words, messages, labels, signing cards, writing their name.
- Highly praise all attempts at writing and show interest in what the writing means.
- Adult modelling of writing is essential and sharing with children what is being written is important.
- Some children like to overwrite whereas others prefer to have writing modelled to them and then copy – take time to explore how your child prefers to learn letter formation.

If you think your child would like to try some of the writing activities included then please share them but there is no obligation to complete the activities.

Any questions then please ask.

Mrs Blessing, Mrs Baldwin and Mrs Mills