



THE BATT C.E. SCHOOL

## Reading and Phonics in Reception



Learning to read is a huge part of starting school and many of you will be keen to get your child started as soon as possible. Fostering a love of reading is key to becoming a successful reader and in Reception, we believe that this starts with sharing high quality picture books with your child.

When your child first starts school we will send home a different book each week from our class library for you to read to them. These books have been carefully selected by us to ensure your child is exposed to a wide range of engaging texts, each containing excellent language. In addition to this, we will also send home fully decodable reading books once we have taught your child the first two sets of sounds from our online Phonics program, Bug Club. These will be changed weekly and will become more challenging as we work our way through the program.

Bug Club is an excellent resource that is used at school and can also be used at home to support your child's knowledge of phonics. In the second week of school your child will begin to learn new sounds as they work through the Bug Club program with the rest of the class. Each lesson follows the same structure so your child will quickly become familiar with the structure and language of the lesson, helping them make excellent progress. From very early on your child will learn how to sound out and blend simple CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words as well as learning how to segment words for spelling. They will also learn how to write the correct graphemes (letters) to represent each sound they learn. In addition to this, your child will also begin to learn, what Bug Club describes as, irregular words - you may have heard these being called tricky words in previous years. Once your child has been taught a set of sounds, we will send home a small booklet containing each sound for them to practice.

To enable your child to make the best possible progress it is important to read with them as often as you can. Ideally we would expect them to practice reading the Bug Club books five times each week for five minutes each time - more if your child is keen though. However we do understand how exhausted your child might be after a busy day at school and it is imperative that reading is fun and not a chore. In the past we have had several children who have enjoyed reading at breakfast time instead of after school, so this may be an option you wish to explore. When practicing with these books, encourage your child to blend the sounds they have learned in school to develop their reading fluency and encourage them to read with expression.

Alongside these decodable books also continue to share other reading materials - picture books, poetry and rhymes, magazines etc with your child to foster their love of reading for pleasure. Each term we introduce a new set of books called our Super Six. This gives the children the opportunity to get to know six books really well each term, ensuring they have a broad experience of high quality texts by the end of the reception year. Texts are carefully selected from the following categories and may vary with each cohort:

- Traditional tales
- Rhyming / repeated refrain
- Diversity
- RE / PSHE
- A book linked to our class theme
- Quality miscellaneous text

After the October half term we will offer a Phonics workshop to parents to ensure you are familiar with the way we teach it and to answer any questions you may have.

We are really keen to ensure your child has the best possible experience on their journey to becoming a reader and we value the support you provide at home hugely. Please feel free to contact the Reception teachers with any questions you may have regarding supporting your child at home - we are here to help.