

We have started to introduce the children to the characters from the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme (ORT).

Please find enclosed 2 sets of characters.

Please help your child to learn the names of the characters by playing matching games and snap.

Once you have matched the pictures you may like to try helping your child to begin to read the names of the characters and match them to the relevant picture.

For those who are very keen I'm including a set of small joining words. You can make simple sentences with these using the characters names as well.

Please write the odd comment in your child's reading diary to let me know how they get on.

We are very aware that some children are only just 4 and others are 5 already. As is usual in a Reception class the children are at varying stages in their development and are interested in very different things. That is what makes teaching such fun!

Please don't feel pressured into pushing your child to 'read' in the classic 'barking at print' way. There are so many aspects to learning to read and we value them all. It is really important that children enjoy learning, that it is fun and something they want to do.

Please don't let learning to read ever become a chore. **Please keep reading to your child** so that they are exposed to arrange of new vocabulary and continue to have a love of books.

I am so pleased with the way the children a settling in to life with us in Wren Class. They are such a lovely bunch. ☺

Sticky Labels!

As you know we are keen to receive comments and observations relating to your child's learning out of school.

I have been introducing the children to their Learning Journals this week and I am keen to encourage them to take ownership of them.

I would really appreciate it if you could complete a sticky label every so often and encourage your child to show you their Journal so you can stick it in. Ideally the kind of comment you make will be related to something they have managed to do that they couldn't do before. It can be very simple or something quite unusual. It may help you to refer to the key areas of learning in the Early Years Curriculum (hand outs from our meeting in June); Personal & social and emotional development (dev), Physical dev, Communication and Language dev, Reading, writing,

Maths, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts dev (singing, dancing, painting, drawing, printing etc...).

It could also be that they come home determined to practice something that they have learned in school - letter formation, numbers, counting games and songs etc. If you can celebrate what they are doing and show them how pleased you are with the effort they put in, it will really boost their self-esteem and help to forge strong links between home and school.

A few updates for you

1. Please find enclosed a **reading diary** for your child. On the first page you will find a note explaining how we are introducing the children to our school reading scheme and a few suggestions of how you can help.
2. You will find a **grid** stuck into the front of your child's reading record. Don't panic it doesn't need to be filled in all in one go but feel free to highlight things you know your child can do and jot down a few examples (in the small space provided!).
3. On another note - in a bid to further develop our links between home and school in order to build up a fuller picture of your child and their capabilities, please see my note about **sticky labels** ☺.

Many thanks, J Yelland 20.9.17.