



## Barrowby Church of England Primary School

Dear Parent/Carer

Following an update from the DfE around the teaching of reading, in particular, phonics we have purchased a new systematic synthetic phonics programme called Essential Letters and Sounds. **Essential Letters and Sounds: getting all children to read well, quickly.** As a school we have started to implement Essential Letters and Sounds as part of our daily phonics lessons for our Reception and Year 1 pupils.

A key part of learning to read is that children re-read words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency. To best support us in teaching your child/ren how to read we ask that you read a decodable text provided by the school 4 times across the week (this will clearly be labelled as a phonics book). This will allow your child to re-read each text several times, building their confidence and fluency. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelt in different ways. The texts that are assigned each week have been carefully matched to support the teaching taking place in school, linked to our new phonics scheme, **Essential Letters and Sounds.** We will only ask your child to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves. These will be clearly labelled as a **phonics book.**

Our most-loved brands, including Oxford Reading Tree, Songbirds and Floppy's Phonics books that are sent home, but not yet decodable for your child will be **reading for pleasure** books. We do not expect your child to read these independently. These books feature a range of different genres, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry, which will enable your child/ren to engage with different types of texts. Sharing these books with your child will help to instil a love of reading from the very beginning of their reading journey.

We have ordered a significant number of phonics books to work alongside our phonics lessons but unfortunately, due to the current climate, we are still awaiting a large quantity of them. In the interim, we will be assigning phonics books to your child/ren using Oxford Owl, an online e-learning platform for our Reception and Year 1 children. Two phonics books will be assigned each week as homework. We ask that you access these texts with your child at least 4 times each week.

We apologise for the delay in being able to send hard copy phonics texts home at this time but appreciate your understanding and patience over the coming weeks. We cannot stress the importance of reading these books with your child 4 times a week. Your child will continue to have their **sharing books** changed each week, on their usual book change day. Once we have received all of the texts into school we will allocate two phonics books each Friday. We ask that all school books remain in your child's reading folder and that their reading folder is brought to school each day.

Please follow the instructions below to log on and access the phonics books that have been allocated as homework.

To access Oxford Owl:

- 1 Go to [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)
- 2 Log in (top right of the screen), using your existing log in details. If you are prompted for the school code it is **ocq7.**

### Completing homework

To complete homework your child should:

1. Click the **Homework** tab to view a list of all the Phonic's books they have been set by their teacher.
2. Select the Phonic Book they would like to complete from the drop down list.
3. Make a note of any additional instructions their teacher may have given them.
4. Click the **Read the eBook** or **Open activity** button to open the homework in a new tab.
5. Complete the eBook or activity as instructed. Once complete, they may then close the tab and return to their homework list.

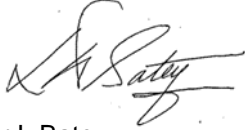


6. For eBooks, they must click the **I've finished the eBook** link next to the **Read the eBook** button which will allow them to rate the eBook using the faces provided.
7. Navigate to the **Progress** area of Oxford Owl by clicking the **Go to progress** button that will appear once your child has rated the eBook.

Once these steps are completed your child will see that the homework/Phonic's Books have been added to their progress list and it will have been removed from their homework list.

We hope you enjoy reading and sharing these Phonic's Books with your children.

Yours sincerely



Mr L Batey  
Head teacher



Artsmark  
Gold Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



sing up  
Platinum Award

