



Barrowby Church of England Primary School

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may know, we use a systematic synthetic phonics programme called Essential Letters and Sounds to teach daily phonics lessons in Reception and Year 1. A key element of developing early reading is ensuring that your child has the opportunity to practise their new phonic knowledge on a daily basis, through the decodable texts that they read.

Each week, your child will receive two phonics books; these books are clearly labelled as **ELS Phonics Book**. The texts that are assigned each week have been carefully matched to support the teaching and learning taking place in school and your child's phonic ability. We will only ask your child to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves.

To best support us in teaching your child/ren how to read we ask that you read these phonics books four times across the week. 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.

We will also send Oxford Reading Tree texts home once a week. These texts, that are 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 cannot stress the importance of reading these books with your child at least four times a week. We kindly ask that you record each time you read in your child's reading record booklet; please follow the guidance in the front of the Reading Records.

We also ask that all school books remain in your child's reading folder and that their reading folder is brought to school each day.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr L Batey
Head teacher

