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Dear Parent/child

Your child will begin to bring home reading books from our reading scheme. These books are wordless or contain a limited amount of words but are very important to your child's reading development. Your children may bring a book home one week with words and then the next week without words. This is not an indication of their ability. The lilac books introduce the skill of story-telling and improve the use of story language. See if your child can tell the story using the pictures as a guide. Encourage them to talk about the characters, where they are, what they are doing and how they are feeling. After a few days, your child should be able to include more story language rather than just saying what they see. The next step is for your child to be able to retell the story in the correct sequence without the pictures

Activities and ideas when sharing these books with your child:

- Respond to your child's ideas by repeating them back and introducing new words to increase their vocabulary.
- Look at the front cover and read the title to your child. Ask them what they think the story will be about? Relate the title back to your child i.e. 'The lost gloves' have they ever lost anything? or 'Puddles' what do you do when you see a puddle?
- Allow your child to turn the pages of the book and describe what they see in the pictures. You could take it in turns to tell a page of the story.
- Encourage your child to add sounds to accompany the action in story and talk about any sounds that might be found in the story setting i.e. 'Feed the Birds' what sounds might you hear outside?
- Once you have finished sharing the book, ask your child to retell the story in their own words.
- Did they enjoy the story? Why?
- Record any comments in your child's reading record book, every time you read together.
- Ask your child to point to different things on the page e.g. The angry man.

After the October half term, children may begin to bring home books containing words that are decodable. We wait until we have taught a sufficient amount of sounds in phonics and ensure the children are able to blend the sounds together.

Children's reading books will be changed on a **THURSDAY** and should be sent to school every day. We only change books once a week so that children build up their fluency by re-reading a familiar book. Please can you spend about 10 minutes a night reading. It is important that you spend time little and often looking and sharing stories together rather than long periods of time looking at all the books at once.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Howse

Reception Leader