



# Harrold Lower School

September 2014



## Supporting your Child's Reading at Home

Dear Parent/ Carer

Today, your child is bringing their first reading scheme book home. Please read the guidance below which will help you support and enrich your child's reading experiences.

Reading is a pleasure and our aim is to instil 'a love of books and a love of reading'

However, some children can find learning to read a difficult process, so they become reluctant to read. Therefore, it is imperative that all adults supporting your child should **be positive, patient and be prepared to persevere.**

Read with your child **everyday for maximum of 10 - 15 minutes.**

Please **choose a time which suits you and your child.** For example some children are very tired straight after school. Therefore, bedtime or breakfast time may work better.

When you read with your child, it is important to **talk about the pictures, characters and main events so that your child understands what they are reading.**

It helps if you use a pencil or pen to scroll underneath the word your child is reading.

Encourage your child to apply their phonics (the sound each letter makes). For example when reading the word 'mat' ask your child to say mm-a-t this is called **segmenting**. Then ask them to **blend** the sounds together (put the sounds together) and say the word 'mat'. **This process can take a long time, you can model the how to segment and blend the sounds.**

**It is quite common for a child not to remember a word they have read on every single page. A child may segment a word and say a completely different word when they blend.**

When you have read with your child at home, **please sign and write a short comment in their reading diary.** It is helpful if you write about how your child read the book. For example 'Clara needed help with blending s-a-t.'

**Please bring both the reading diary and book to school each day.** In the morning take the reading diary and book out of your child's bag and **place it in the Reading Box** which is kept next to the water bottles.

We will change your child's reading scheme book according to their **individual needs**. In order to consolidate your child's letter and word recognition skills, it is expected that your child will keep the same reading scheme book until they consistently and independently read the words both at home and school. Please do not worry if your child does not bring a new book home every day. This is normal when your child first learns to read.

To ensure your child enjoys a wide range of literature, they will continue to have the opportunity to take a library book home. It is important your child sees you reading for pleasure as well as functional purposes.

For further information, please refer to the Literacy / English guidance that was handed out at the Parents' Welcome Evening held at the beginning of this term.

If you would like any further information or support, please make an appointment to see Mrs Jandu.