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*'For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime'*

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Dear Parent/Carers of Reception Class

Your child will begin to bring home reading books from our reading scheme. These books are wordless or have very few words but are very important to your child's reading development. Early Books allow children to learn how stories work, including the order and direction in which they read, without the pressure of too many words on the page. Children will enjoy talking about the story and discussing what is happening in the pictures. The first step in reading is to use visual prompts to help read the words. The pictures provide lots of opportunities for playing with environmental sounds, an important first step in the teaching of phonics.

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.
- Look at letters in words which may be in your child's name.
- Ask your child to point to different things on the page e.g. the angry man.

Children's reading books will be changed weekly and should be sent to school every day.

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

**Mrs Collins**

**Reception Class Teacher**

