

**Learning and Caring Together,
“...they will flourish in the courts of our God.” (Psalm 92:13)**

Friday 29th November 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

Our recent Ofsted report shows that the quality of reading education at St Edward's is good and that 'reading is a priority for the school'. One aspect of good practice identified was that we closely match phonic reading books to the needs of individual children, thus developing their word recognition, decoding skills and fluency. These are skills that are needed in order to comprehend what children read. Following our phonics Watch me Learn for parents/carers, we are writing to share how phonic reading taught in school will now be strengthened even further by changes to reading books that are practised at home.

Children in the Early Years, the majority of children in Year 1 and some children in years 2,3,and 4 will no longer be reading 'coloured book band' books at home or in school, as these do not support the phonics teaching that is in place. Instead, your child will have a phonics book which has been chosen to secure graphemes (letters and sounds) they are learning in class or to target specific gaps in your child's phonic knowledge. Your child will need to read this book at home and school until they are fluent and secure in the reading of this text. This may mean that your child will not be changing their book as often as they have done previously.

Once your child has been teacher assessed as secure in their phase 5 phonic knowledge, fluency and ability to comprehend what they have read in their phonic reading, they will move onto 'colour book bands'. These books will support the development of higher order comprehension rather than word recognition and decoding taught through phonics. Children's reading books will not be changed until they have a good understanding of the vocabulary used by the author, secure recall of prior reading, and have discussed what is happening/may happen, how characters are feeling/behaving... as 'racing' through book bands and 'free reading books' is not an indication of a good reader.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself.

Kind regards

Mrs Hordern
Assistant Principal