

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This Friday your child will receive their first reading book. It will be a story without any words. Please spend some time looking at the book with your child and encourage him or her to tell you what the story is about using the pictures as prompts. We suggest you do this by asking your child to tell you what is happening on each page as you go through the story. This is also an opportunity to help your child to understand the way books work (front cover, page numbers, etc).

Questions you could ask your child to help them understand the story as you are going through it:

- Can you point to the front cover of the book?
- What does the front cover tell us about the story?
- Can you point to the title?
- What does the title tell us about the story?
- Does your book have page numbers and can you point to them?
- Can you open your book and find the first page of the story?
- What do you think is going to happen on the next page?

Questions you could ask your child once you have finished the book:

- What happened at the beginning (or middle, or end) of the story?
- Can you tell me what happened on page... (e.g. page 3)?
- Can you list the characters in the book?
- What is your favourite part of the book and why?
- Can you retell the whole of the story in your own words?

Additional questions:

- What is an author?
- What is an illustrator?
- What is a blurb (the description of the story on the back of the book)?

What next?

I will give your child some letter sounds and then whole words to take home and practice during the coming weeks. Once your child recognises letter sounds and can blend these together to read simple words (such as, 'cat,' 'dog,' 'man,' etc), he or she will be provided with a story book containing words.



Living Life in all its Fullness John 10:10

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Helpful online resources for learning to read at home:

www.teachyourmonstertoread.com (A fun online game that teaches your child to read letter sounds, words and sentences.)

Jolly Phonics on www.youtube.com (Jolly Phonics is a multi-sensory approach to teaching letter sounds by using actions and song. Simply enter Jolly Phonics followed by the letter you would like your child to learn into Youtube's search engine, e.g. 'Jolly Phonics C'.)

Don't forget to have fun!

This is just the beginning of your child's reading journey. It's worth remembering that your child's attention span will still be quite short, so it's best to break up reading activities over several sittings, rather than attempting to do everything in one go. The most important thing at this stage is that your child enjoys talking to you about what he or she is reading and is eager to read more.

If you have any questions about teaching your child to read, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Miss Hendrickson

