

Dear Elm Class 2023 Parents and Carers,

Your child will begin to bring home reading books from the start of our reading scheme this week. 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.

The local Collingham library is an excellent resource for choosing age-appropriate books free of charge. Elm class will be making their first visit there soon as part of our whole school 'Reading For Pleasure' initiative. Opening times can be found on the Collingham Community Partnership Library page at inspireculture.org.uk

Here are some useful 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, for example, '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 by the Elm class staff team and should be sent to school every day please. Try to spend about 10 minutes a night reading. It is important that you try to spend time little and often, looking and sharing stories together rather than long periods of time looking at all the books at once.

If you have any further questions about reading in Elm class, please do not hesitate to contact school via email or at the end of the day.

Kind regards

Mrs Bingham