

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for the support you are giving your children with their reading at home. I understand that some parents have been concerned about the reduced number of reading books so I wanted to explain the reasoning behind this change.

The government says that children should be developing fluency and comprehension. Sending home different books too often simply means that the children race through a list of books that may not be at their phonic level. Unless a child can read a book and understand the sub-plot and make inferences as well as reading with a story-teller voice, they haven't finished the book. Books should be loved and bring joy to the child; therefore, we send home the same book on several occasions each week so that the children can recognise the characters and plots. Here at Woodley C of E we see it as vital that we follow the RWI scheme with fidelity to ensure that we are providing children with 100% decodable books. Unfortunately, this means that our old books from a variety of schemes are no longer appropriate to use.

This week your child will bring home a RWI 'Book Bag Book' alongside a 'Book To Share'. Your child can choose a 'Book To Share' from our Infant library and enjoy it at home with an adult. These can be changed as often as they like. Please bring it back in once it has been read and we will allow your child to change it. The 'Books To Share' are intended to be read by you to your child and are a great opportunity to spend some story time together, building up vocabulary and a love of reading.

Spelling (Year 1 and 2 only)

Each week your child will be tested on spelling the red and speedy green words from their RWI 'book bag book'. Please help your child to learn how to spell these words at home. See below for some ideas you could use to support your child.

- Frequently words will have a tricky bit in them. Use colours to identify the bit your child finds difficult in a particular word.
- Write the words on post it notes and stick them around the house.
- Add illustrations to the letters to make them more memorable.
- Get your child to close their eyes and make a big picture of the word in their heads. Then they can write it and compare to the correct spelling.
- Use some cut out or magnetic letters; build the word, then muddle up the letters. Ask your child to rebuild the word and compare to the correct spelling.
- Practise writing the word in a large size on sandpaper, in sand, flour, on the bath etc.
- Get your child to chant the letters as if in a rhythm or song.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Luzolo