



Cradley C of E Primary School

Friday 5th November 2021

Dear EYFS/ KSI parents and carers,

“To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.”

— Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

At Cradley CE Primary School, we believe that the ability to read and comprehend is central to learning and should be part of the children's daily diet. Not only does reading regularly help word reading and fluency, it helps us acquire new skills, knowledge and expands our vocabulary.

Phonics sessions are delivered daily in school in order to teach children to recognise letters and sounds and to blend these sounds together to read words. Following an update from the DfE around phonics teaching, we have moved to **Essential Letters and Sounds**, this is a phonics programme based on Letters and Sounds (2007). This new phonics programme will support your children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers.

In order to support children with their phonics skills, they will be sent an electronic reading book (e-book) as part of their weekly homework. We are asking that you read the decodable text provided 4 times across the week. These books will contain the letters and sounds that have been studied in phonics during the week and spending 10 minutes a day reading these, will hugely support your child in their journey to becoming an independent reader. It is a key part of learning to read that children re-read words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency.

These e-books will not replace the independent reading books that are brought home from school in your child's bookbag and are instead an additional homework task designed to support your child in their phonic skills acquisition.

In order to access the weekly e-book, your child will need to log on to the online platform using the log on details sent home in their planners today. They can access the student area by logging in at www.oxfordowl.co.uk. Before entering any details, please ensure the **students** tab is selected. To complete homework your child should:

1. Click the **Homework** tab to view a list of all the homework they have been set by their teacher.
2. Select the homework they would like to complete from the drop down list.
3. Make a note of any additional instructions their teacher may have given them.
4. Click the **Read the eBook** or **Open activity** button to open the homework in a new tab.
5. Complete the eBook or activity as instructed. Once complete, they may then close the tab and return to their homework list.

6. For eBooks, they must click the **I've finished the eBook** link next to the **Read the eBook** button which will allow them to rate the eBook using the faces provided.
7. Navigate to the **Progress** area of Oxford Owl by clicking the **Go to progress** button that will appear once your child has rated the eBook.

We recognise that this may take a little time to get used to and appreciate your support. If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher

Mrs R Darby