



**PURBROOK INFANT SCHOOL**  
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Dear Parents/Carers

Today your child has brought home a reading book and you will notice a few differences. The school is now following a new reading scheme (Honeycomb Phonics) designed specifically by our staff to meet the needs of our pupils. This is due to new guidance from the DfE regarding the teaching of Early Reading in schools.

Children must now take-home books which meet their 'phonetic decoding' ability; this means that they are able to identify every sound written in the book and read it independently. These books are now for practising and consolidating, instead of learning new sounds and words. These books will be known as 'Learn to Read' books and will follow the same colour banding system as before, but children can only be moved onto the next band once they have been taught every sound and word in the book at school. Whilst these books may not seem to provide as much challenge as the books you are used to, repetition and practise are key parts of word reading and we still ask that you look at these books at home regularly with your children.

As your child has learned a new set of sounds and moves onto a new book colour, they will also bring home a set of Bumblebee cards. These are not assessed within school as the children have already been exposed to the words within phonics, but are there for children to practise reading, play matching games and hunt for the words in books at home.

Since the 'Learn to Read' books must be phonetically decodable, they sometimes lack a detailed storyline for children to practise comprehension and inference. The school has therefore also invested in a large bank of 'Love to Read' books which will be sent home with your child as well. These will always have a black sticker and are not banded based on difficulty; they are designed for you to read with your child and talk about the story, building a love of reading instead of just focusing on the act of decoding words.

Due to the transition from our old reading scheme to Honeycomb Phonics, you may find that your child is moved onto a book band which they have already completed. There is no need for concern as the requirements for each band level are different on the new scheme; your child has not moved backwards.

All new 'Learn to Read' books will have a coloured sticker on the outside and the sticker will have a black dot inside. This is to differentiate between the old and new books. If you find a book at home **without** a dotted sticker, this is from our old scheme and should no longer be in circulation; please return the book to the school office as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support in reading with your child at home 5 times a week – remember, this can be a Learn to Read book, a Love to Read book, a library book or a favourite book that you have at home. Please continue to write in the reading record book every time you read (even if you are not reading a school book); this will ensure that your child can take part in our Reading Challenge and earn rewards and prizes with their class.

Please find attached a list of questions and ideas to support you when reading with your child at home.

Yours sincerely,

Miss B. Wigmore  
**Reading and Phonics Subject Leader**

Example questions to ask when reading a book with your child...

### **Before reading the book**

- Can you point to/read the title? What do you think this book will be about?
- Have a look at the blurb – are there any more clues? Do you like the sound of this book so far?
- Look at the author/illustrator. Have you read any of their books before?

### **When reading the book**

- Can you spot any sounds/words you know?
- I wonder what that word might mean?
- Can you think of a better word they could have chosen?
- Why do you think they said/did/felt like that?
- What choice would you have made?
- Have you learnt anything new so far?
- Does this remind you of another story/something that has happened in your life?
- Who do you think is telling the story?
- Can you pick your favourite describing word on this page?
- Which word tells you that...?
- I wonder what the author was thinking when they wrote that?
- Can you think of a word to describe the...?
- Why do you think it is laid out like this?
- How are the pictures supporting the story? Are they showing you anything new?
- Why did they choose that punctuation? How did it change how you read the sentence?

### **After reading the book**

- Did you enjoy this book?
- Would you read something else by this author/illustrator?
- Would you change anything about the book?
- Which was your favourite character? How did the author make you like them?
- What is your opinion about...? Can you back it up using the book?
- Did this story have a moral or a message? What would it be?
- Can you tell me what happened in the story? How much can you remember?