

3rd March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Sounds Write in Year 3

As you will know from previous correspondence, we place significant emphasis on phonics within our curriculum at Loose Primary School. Sounds Write, our phonics programme, places phonics firmly at the heart of the teaching of reading and writing which impacts how your child in Year 3 is learning to read. Earlier in the year, you will have received a letter outlining the Sounds Write programme and how phonics is taught at Loose. This letter will outline the next stages of support for your child's phonics learning. Please continue reading for an insight into the use of decodable reading texts and how you can support your child's learning at home.

Decodable Texts

The phonics knowledge that children are taught in their phonics lessons is supported at every stage through the use of "decodable" texts. Decodables are reading books specifically designed to match and include the target sounds that are taught at each stage of the code. Children are, therefore, able to practice segmenting and blending target sounds in the context of whole-word reading from the very beginning of their learning journey and beyond. This provides all children with ample opportunities to rehearse and retrieve the knowledge they have learnt in the classroom.

Children in Year 3 will begin bringing these texts home from **Monday 6th March 2023** and will be changed once a week to ensure they contain relevant code knowledge linked to phonics knowledge that has either been taught or will be being taught in upcoming lessons. Within this period, children should read and re-read their allocated book to ensure they are given multiple opportunities to practice recognising target sounds alongside rehearsing the skills of segmenting and blending to decode. This process of re-reading texts is invaluable and highly effective in supporting reader's development and should not be underestimated! For this reason, it is important that children do not rush ahead to more challenging texts but progress through decodables at a steady pace. **Books will be changed every Monday** so it is vital that these are returned each week on this day.

PTO

Fluency Texts

To ensure that your child is still receiving a varied reading diet and working to build their fluency and stamina, all children in Year 3 will also bring home a “fluency” book to supplement their decodable text. These were previously referred to according to their coloured band and have been routinely being sent home since the beginning of the academic year. These books will continue to work to ensure that your child has access to high quality additional literature that supports their reading experience. They will be changed more regularly as and when the children complete them.

Phonics Lessons

Beginning next term, all children will be returning to their classrooms for phonics lesson to be taught by their class teachers.

We sincerely hope that the information included above is useful in providing you with an overview of what your child’s phonics learning looks like in Year 3 and how the use of decodable texts will operate. Should you have any questions about your child’s phonics learning please do feel free to contact us.

Kind Regards,

The Year 3 and English Team