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Exciting changes to Early Reading at Dovecotes Primary School!

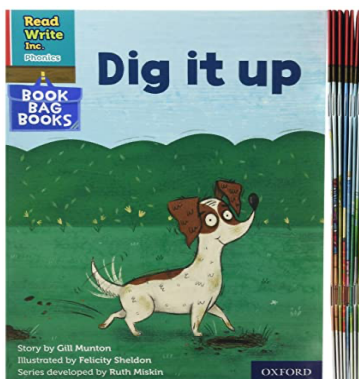
Dear Parents/Carers,

Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Mrs Batchelor, and I am the new Early Reading Lead at Dovecotes Primary School. I am really looking forward to meeting you all and hope that as many of you can attend the Read Write Inc. Parent workshop at 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday 20th September and/or the Reading for Pleasure Parent Workshop at 2:45 p.m. on Monday 3rd October. This will be an informal opportunity to meet face to face but if you cannot make either of these dates, I am also always available at the start or end of the school day for any support or questions you may have on Phonics and Early Reading.

This year, as a school, we are slightly changing the reading system to support *all* children with reading and children will be bringing home **two** different books. I will explain what they are below.



The first will be a Read Write Inc. (RWI) book bag book which will have the Read Write Inc. logo in the top left corner. This book is directly from the phonics scheme that we follow in school. This means that it is completely decodable for *all* children at their exact reading level; as such they will be able to sound out and read each word within the book having been taught all the sounds and red (tricky) words in their phonics lessons.



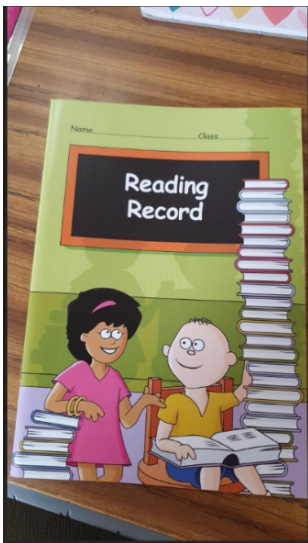
This book will be their main home reader book. It will only be changed once a week by your child's Read Write Inc. teacher. Over time you may notice that the colour strip on the logo changes – this is because your child will have changed phonics groups and therefore changed to a different colour band as they progress and develop through the scheme.

These books are brand new in school and have cost £4.50 per book. This considerable allocation of school funds to buy in a completely new reading scheme will ensure that we have catered for all children

on the Read Write Inc scheme from Reception up to Year Four. In return, we ask that these new books are treated with respect and returned **weekly** in order to be changed each **Thursday**.



If the book is not returned to school, regrettably families will be charged for the replacement of a new book. However, we trust that this will never be the case as we know how excited our children will be to change their book weekly.



This year all children have received a brand-new home reading diary to record and celebrate reading at home. A parent/carer or older sibling/family member can sign/write comments in the home reading diary. When the child receives three signatures/comments in the home reading diary, this will be recorded on the classroom reading chart. Pupils who continue this for 80% of the term will receive a special reward. The speed in which the child can read their book is a good assessment tool to show their teacher how often they have read the book at home.

Once the children have learnt to read all their 'sounds' within Read Write Inc., they will be assessed and then no longer bring home a RWI book bag book. Instead, they will bring home books appropriate to their 'reading age' rather than phonic ability. In Year 2 this is known as the 'free readers box'. Higher up the school, the children know which colour baskets to select their books from. This then continues throughout the school for all children not on the RWI phonics programme.

The second book that children will bring home will be their book to **share**. This means that pupils are not expected to read this by themselves. This book will contain a lot of words that they can read already. However, there may be words they come across, that they have not yet been taught. This is where parent support is invaluable with these books. Children will be able to select these books by themselves, allowing them to explore their interests. These books can be changed more frequently, and children will be able to change these themselves once their parent has signed once to say that they have read it. Please send in your child's plastic book bag daily so that staff can also hear children reading their home reader books. This helps us to monitor how well they are progressing, as well as view your comments in the reading diary which is so valuable in helping to create a conversation between parent and teacher regarding the child's reading progress.

As this system is new within school, we will be monitoring how well it is going and would value your feedback on the door in the morning and at home time to find out how you are getting on home reading. As always, parent feedback is welcome.

If you would like anymore support on how to help your child with phonics and Early Reading, or have any concerns with their reading, please do not hesitate to contact me on the school email dovecotesprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk or ring on 01902 558284.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter,

Mrs A. Batchelor
Early Reading Lead

