



Eastway Primary School  
Rossall Road  
Moreton  
Wirral  
CH46 8TA

Headteacher: Mrs Emily Morris

☎: 0151 677 1235

✉: [schooloffice@eastway.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@eastway.wirral.sch.uk)

🌐: [eastway-primary.eschools.co.uk](http://eastway-primary.eschools.co.uk)

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## Reading at Eastway

What an amazing week we have had in school this week celebrating books and sharing our love of reading. We have also purchased over £5000 of new books this week and will be launching our new reading scheme next week. As we teach our youngest children to read, it is essential that we get this right from the start. They must have access to high quality books that they enjoy and that are closely matched to their current phonics phase and reading ability. When our teachers teach the children letter sounds, they will send a book home that will be matched to what they can decode and read successfully.

### Home Reading Books

Teachers in Reception, SCD1 and Year 1 will send home a decodable book each week for you to practise with your child, there will also be activities that you can complete within that book when practising the letter sounds that they have learnt in school. The banding system for our new books is different to the previous books as we are now working on colours and numbers with books that are accessible by their confidence in phonics. If you have any questions please speak to your child's



class teacher. These books will be changed by the class teacher each week. Children from Year 2 to 6 will continue to select a Home Reading Book from their colour banded box to read at home. These books are very expensive and it is very important that they are well cared for and returned to school. We will also have access to over 500 books online so if your child wishes to change more frequently or try different texts, they can do.



### Guided Reading

We have also purchased new sets of high quality books to be read in class. Through these books, your child will be taught specific reading skills which will assist with comprehension and developing fluency and a love of different types of books. On occasion these books may be sent home to practise certain skills, for example identifying an index or glossary in non-fiction or using detective skills to explore new words; your class teacher will let you know how you can best support your child at home with these books.

### Class Libraries

Each class in school has a wide range of high quality books that from non-fiction to poetry, classic authors to the most up to date publications. Children can borrow a book to bring home to share with you, they may not always be able to access the text independently but to further secure a love of reading and interest in different books. Each class will have a box of 'Books We Can Read Ourselves' which will contain a range of colour banded books that children can take home to practice independently. These will all be accessible at the end of the school day should parents/ carers wish to borrow additional reading books.

### **Reading Rewards**

Reading Rewards will continue and children will be rewarded every term for regularly reading at home. Please note that this is not the NUMBER OF BOOKS, but the NUMBER OF READS that we count. We are promoting fluency and accuracy in our reading and there are now larger numbers of books in each set for your child to work through, we are not looking to race the children through the reading scheme as this has proven to have a negative impact on children's reading ability and understanding of texts.

### **Reading Meeting for Parents YR to Y2 (inc SCD1)**

You are welcome to join us on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 8.45. A chance to hear all about how we teach phonics and reading across the whole school, see our new reading materials, chat to staff and find out how you can support your children at home. If you would like to come, please let your class teacher know so we know numbers for refreshments. Following the meeting, there will be an opportunity to see a reading session with your child in class and support them to make their own book.

### **Book Swap Sheds**

Due to storm damage the opening of our two Book Swap sheds has been delayed. They will hopefully be fixed and up and open before Easter. You will be able to swap books or borrow from the sheds every day after school. Please keep them neat and tidy and encourage your child to read often but also respect the books.

### **School Library**

Our School Library is open every day for children to access to read books, borrow books and share stories with their friends. We will continue to promote this and children are very welcome to read as freely and often as is possible throughout the day. Please make sure that these books are well looked after and returned to school so all children can have access to them.

### **Class Reading Books**

We all devote the final 15 minutes of every school day to share a story with the children. Each class has specific books that they cover throughout the year and we hope that they enjoy talking to you about the books they experience in school. Each class has a list of high quality books that are essential reads for their year group, if you have birthdays coming up, check the list as a book is a great present!

### **Reading Events in School**

We really hope that you enjoyed our Breakfast with a Book event and Campfire Stories. We will continue to have reading events planned throughout the year and our new Bedtime Story Boxes will also be coming home soon. Secret Reader is still working well in our younger classes and the children love to be surprised with a different adult every week, if you or a family member are interested in coming to read to a class, let us know. We still have books available at only £2 from the Book Fair, if you would like to purchase a book, send your child in with some money or pop in after school.

We hope that you see the benefit of reading with your child and understand how we teach children at Eastway to read confidently and promote a love of reading through all we do. If you are interested in finding out more or would like to become a School Reading Partner, please let us know.

Mrs Emily Morris  
Headteacher