Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Home reading is an integral component of the school reading program. Home reading books are selected for your child so that they can practise and enjoy reading. The books selected are at the easy level for your child.

We ask that you and your child spend 15-20 minutes reading and talking about the book. Your child should be reading the book with fluency and phrasing. This means that they will not be regularly stopping on unknown words and will be reading using the punctuation within the book (i.e. stopping at full stops, pausing at commas, etc.). If your child is stopping on many unknown words please let your child's teacher know so an appropriate level of text can be found. The easy level of the text is most important as we want the Home Reading experience to be as positive as possible for you and your child. Praise your child regularly as they read.

Your child's Home Reading Book is at least one level below the level of the book that they are using in the classroom. The classroom book is used by the teacher to give explicit instruction in reading during Guided Reading groups. Home reading enables your child to practise and consolidate their learning. The practice is most important in ensuring that your child continues to learn reading strategies. Revisiting a particular book over a couple of nights can be beneficial in developing reading confidence and consolidating reading strategies.

When your child has read to you, choose from a few of the following activities:

- Ask a few simple questions based on the characters in the text or the setting of the book.
- Focus on an illustration and ask your child to retell what is happening within the illustration. Ask your child what happened before this? And what happened after this?
- Ask your child to retell the story.
- Encourage your child to talk about any similar experiences that are relevant to the book.
- Ask your child to locate words that begin or end with a particular sound.
- Identify words that are repeated throughout the book.
- Ask your child to predict what will happen if the story continued.

In the earlier levels of the text the illustrations are highly supportive of the words within the book. Encourage your child to use the illustrations to help them read – please don’t ask your child to read the book with the illustrations covered. As levels become more challenging, illustrations will become less supportive.

I am sure that with the support of levelled books, Home Reading will be a positive and enjoyable experience. Should you wish to discuss the use of the levelled texts, please don’t hesitate to contact me for an appointment.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Lana Bentley
on behalf of the English committee

Mr David Byrne
Principal