



**GATEWAY**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
*Lifelong love of learning*

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Headteacher: **Mrs Kayleigh Anstee**

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been making improvements to the teaching and resourcing of phonics and reading this year, particularly in EYFS and Key Stage One. Synthetic phonics teaching is the main method for teaching early reading and historically the school have used a scheme of work to ensure consistency and correct pitch and pace. We have invested in a new scheme of work which is more engaging and challenging and allows for greater parental engagement at home.

From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January, we will be introducing this new scheme of phonics learning for the children in EYFS and Key Stage One. We will be using the 'Bug Club' phonics scheme which is published by Pearson and validated by the Department for Education. It links directly to the decodable reading books we have recently invested in. As well as offering quality planning and resources for us to use at school, the online login feature for parents allows you access to many e-books with additional features to support reading at home.

The communal area in Key Stage One has been developed into a library for the children, with a range of new decodable texts and recommended reads to showcase reading. We are really pleased with these new purchases – they are colourful, engaging texts which can be further explored with your parents login for the 'Bugs Club' website. All children will be bringing home a book mark with your login details for the Bugs Club website today. Further help documents will be put on our school website, in the reading section.

It was important to us that our new phonics scheme also promoted a love of reading and we have adapted the way in which we send reading books home to reflect this. From Monday, all children in EYFS and KS1 will receive two decodable books linked to their place on the Bugs Club phonics scheme to read at home – these books will contain familiar sounds and your child should be able to read them with a small amount of support from you. We would like you to support your child reading these books several times over the week, building in fluency through word/grapheme recognition and confidence. These books may appear 'easy' after a few days, but this reading is key in developing sight reading skills, practising decoding and building confidence. This can also be a great opportunity to discuss the plot, characters and setting of the book, children can retell the story or topic and discuss what they like and dislike about it. The third book will be the child's choice from the classroom library. This is a book to explore and enjoy together and may be a book which you have to read to your child as it may be beyond their grasp. This

book is just to read for pleasure. In KS1, these 3 books will be changed weekly on a Monday and twice a week in EYFS on a Monday and Friday.

Please speak to your children about the new phonics scheme – we are excited to engage them in phonics in a new and more interactive way. We would also welcome any feedback from you on the programme.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Thorne  
English Lead

