



8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear families

At Beckfoot Allerton we recognise that a solid foundation in reading is crucial to a child's success as they progress through primary school, into secondary school and then in later life. Our aim is to support children to become confident and competent readers who develop a love for reading that will grow with them as they move through our school.

This year we are launching a new whole school strategy for independent reading. This is based on training and guidance from DfE English Hub Literacy Specialists. As part of our school improvement priority to 'Develop strategies to support every child to become an accomplished and confident reader', we have changed the way that we support and guide children with independent reading. From next week, we will change books every Monday. In years 1-6, each child will have 2 'book bag books' and a free-choice book from our school library. In addition to this, all children will continue to have unlimited access to online reading resources through our Bug Club subscription and Oxford Owl websites.

Our school strategy is focused on developing reading comprehension. Although the majority of our children develop excellent decoding skills by the time they finish KS1 and move into KS2, we have identified that comprehension remains an area for development.

This means that across school, **children will be encouraged to re-read texts for four main reasons; increasing their vocabulary & fluency, embedding phonemic awareness, developing deeper understanding around what they have read and building confidence.** As children progress from KS1 into KS2, challenge within independent reading is increased as books become longer with an increasing amount of text. This means that children need to develop reading stamina and will often read chapter books over the course of a few days/weeks.

We recognise that this may feel like a dramatic change from our old independent reading practice, so we have included some **Frequently Asked Questions** below to provide further information behind this new strategy...

### ***How can re-reading a text increase vocabulary?***

A great reading strategy for comprehension is increased vocabulary. It makes sense that increased exposure to reading increases vocabulary. However, when a child rereads the same text, they memorise more than when exposed to many new words.

The key to learning new vocabulary is through familiarity with those words. [Research](#) with 3-year-olds shows those who repeatedly rereading books increased their vocabulary more than those who read a variety of books. Not that the children with the choice of text didn't improve, they did, but the increase was not as great as those with multiple exposures to the same text.

### ***How can re-reading a text increase phonemic awareness and development?***

Rereading books strengthens an understanding of the pattern, rhythm and pronunciation of the text. Developing a deeper understanding of phonemic awareness involves identifying, hearing and manipulating separate sounds in words, an important early stage of learning to read.

Reading aloud promotes the connection between correct pronunciation and spelling. This will only grow through exposure to the same vocabulary.

### ***How can re-reading a text develop comprehension skills?***

Rereading books provides an opportunity to develop a deep understanding of a book's plot or character development something not possible reading a book once. Exploring the text and illustrations helps children delve into the story's message and make new connections, preparing them for more complex narratives. As a key reading strategy for comprehension, rereading books provides an opportunity to answer more complex and elaborative questions and offer judgements and opinions. How can re-reading a text develop comprehension skills? Memorisation is an important reading strategy for comprehension to develop increased vocabulary, reading fluency and accuracy. Reading a book without pausing or waiting for an adult to reveal an unknown word is confidence boosting. Often, when a child gets to this point, they will move onto new books with new challenges. Remember, greater confidence develops into a lifelong love of reading.

**As we want to encourage a love of reading across school, and recognise that some children may want to read more than one book per week, all children will have access to a wide range of online books through the [Bug Club](#) and [Oxford Owl](#) websites (please see login details inside your child's reading record).**

### ***How can Bug Club be used to support reading at home?***

Using your child's individual login for Bug Club Independent, they will be encouraged to read at home with 164 fully decodable titles from our Bug Club Phonics programme and over 300 additional fiction and non-fiction print books, comics and graphic novels alongside an online reading world. Teachers will keep track of the books read and as your child completes the online quizzes, an assessment tool will be used to provide increasing challenge through the books available within their own personalised 'reading world' library.

### ***How can Oxford Owl be used to support reading at home?***

This website offers access to a free tablet-friendly eBook Library of over 800 books which includes lots of the texts that we use in school and children's favourite characters from Biff, Chip and Kipper to the Project X Team. Both of these reading schemes are rooted in reading for pleasure and offer a variety of writing styles that will support children to become confident readers.

More information about our Reading Policy and [top tips](#) to help you support Reading at Home can be found within the 'Curriculum' section of our school [website](#).

**Yours faithfully**

**The Senior Leadership Team**