

Birdlip Lane, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6HD
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Dear Parents & Carers

Reading is a vital part of a child's development. In fact, did you know that...

“A child's vocabulary at age 5 is a significant predictor of educational success at the age of 30”

Thank you to all our families who have tried hard to help their child improve their reading over lockdown. The teachers can clearly see who has been enjoying daily story time, practising their phonics and developing their vocabulary during their time at home, as these children are developing into fluent & confident readers.

At Kents Hill School, we use the Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics programme. This is an interactive phonics scheme tailored towards every child's phonics development and teaching them new sounds as children are grouped according to their reading stage. Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic and our school risk assessment, we are not able to group children as we would have ideally liked due to class bubbles. We have grouped our children safely first, the best we can at this current time. Equally, reading book availability is becoming challenging, due to the need to quarantine. If your child does not return their reading book, they will not be allocated a new one to take home, as currently less than half of our children have returned their books from before lockdown. Please can we ask you to return any outstanding books to school in order that they can return to circulation.

Please see below for our new plan of action;

- ❖ Children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 will get a reading book on Monday 22nd March.
- ❖ Reading books should then be returned every Friday morning so that they can be quarantined over the weekend.
- ❖ Children will get a new book every Monday (as long as they have returned a book).
- ❖ We are aware that 1 book each week may not be enough for those families who are helping to accelerate their child's reading progress and close the Covid-19 gap. As a result of this, we have signed our school up for free RWI e-books. Please see below for more information.

Free RWI E-books

1. Go onto the Oxford Owl website <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>
2. Under the 'Oxford Owl for School' tab click **log in**.
3. You must then click the **student tab**.
4. Your child has been sent home with a bright yellow slip of paper. This contains your child's individual username & password. Type in this username & password & click **log in**. Please note, if you click the parent tab instead of the student tab these log in details will not work.
5. Once you are logged in you should view a reading book, which has been specifically selected by your child's class teacher. It matches your child's reading level & the sounds they have been practising in phonics in school.
6. Under the homework subheading it should show 1 e-book for your child to read. You will always only have 1 book available, however you will always be able to re-read previously read books.

Headteacher: Mrs J Mackie

Chair of Governors: Mrs J. Ives
Business Manager: Mrs D. Castle

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7. If you click on the book you should then be able to click 'read the eBook'. You must read the book twice. When your child's teacher can see it has been read twice then they will allocate your child a new book. The more your child reads, the more books they will get through.
8. The e-book is structured in exactly the same way as the books children read in their phonics lesson. Once your child is confident blending, the books will include;
 - a. A warm-up with the speed sounds
 - b. Green words: words which the children will be able to decode & blend together
 - c. Vocabulary check: to discuss the meaning of new vocabulary
 - d. Red words: words which can't be sounded out so these red words must be learnt by sight reading
 - e. The actual story
 - f. Questions linked to the book to discuss.

Thank you in advance for helping us to support your child's reading whilst at home. Remember, every book must be read twice before your child's class teacher will allocate a new book. The first time children read a book they spend a lot of time sounding out the words and thinking about which word to read next. In RWI we always read the same book for the whole week during phonics lessons to encourage pace & fluency. This in turn improves children's comprehension of what they are reading. The second time children read a book they spend less effort decoding the words and more time understanding what they are reading. Remember, becoming a fluent reader involves not only decoding familiar & unfamiliar words but also being able to talk about the book and what is happening. Please bare this in mind. If your child is able to speed through the book at a pace, focus on asking them lots of questions as they read page by page.

We would like to thank all our families in supporting us, to support your children.

Stay safe, wash your hands and keep smiling!!

Kents Hill Team

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