



Tuesday 13 February 2024

Dear Parents,

At St Brendan's over the past few years, we have made many changes to our approaches towards teaching Literacy. One of these is the use of decodable readers in the Junior years. Decodable readers are short texts containing specific knowledge (letter-sound correspondence) taught to the students. This allows learners to use their developing segmenting and blending skills to read words to develop automaticity, or the ability to recognise words quickly and effortlessly and experience independent reading success. Decodable books encourage children to sound out words using decoding strategies rather than guessing from pictures or predicting from other cues. As the students progress through the alphabetic code, these texts become longer and more complex.

Each week your child will receive at least two books in their reader wallet which are changed weekly (day dependent on your child's class- please see the top of this letter).

**Decodable text** - one or two depending on the length of the book. Students are encouraged to re-read their decodable books throughout the week to help focus on the sound that they are learning and consolidating.

**Other text** - your child will receive another text based on their reading ability. This could be another decodable reader, a small chapter book or nonfiction text that will support your child's vocabulary and knowledge building.

Once your child has mastered the alphabetic code, they will move on to more complex texts based on their reading capability and will not receive any decodable readers. Readers are not changed nightly as multiple readings of the same text help to develop your child's fluency and comprehension in reading. At St Brendan's, nightly reading is an expectation from Foundation to Grade 6. In the Junior School, we suggest reading with or to your child and should not exceed 10 - 15 minutes each evening. We also encourage you to read to your child for enjoyment!

We will be hosting a Literacy evening later in the school year, to help parents to understand how your child will be learning different literacy skills, and how you can support this journey at home.

Many thanks for your support, and we look forward to our continued working partnership.

Kind regards,

Erica Hudson  
Literacy Leader