

21/07/2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your patience while transitioning to our new decodable readers system. We now have nearly 4000 decodable readers to share across the school and at home, so it has been a mammoth task. All the teachers have been learning about the new system and they are now able to borrow and return decodable readers from their classrooms.

Please find below some suggestions to support your child with reading. We also have answers to some frequently asked questions:

Reading At Home

Supporting your child to learn to read is the greatest gift we can give our children. To support their learning in the classroom, EPS recommends hearing your child read their decodable reader every school night to build their fluency.

What is fluency?

Fluency is the ability to read a text quickly, accurately, and with proper expression.

What are decodable readers?

Decodable readers are simple stories using sounds and relevant spellings that the students have learned in their literacy lessons.

What is the difference between decodable and library books?

- Decodable readers are specifically for building fluency and for reading aloud. These are specifically for developing your child's reading skills through repeated practise.
- Library books are for shared or independent reading. This is an opportunity to sit down and read a story or find some interesting facts. These are great for bedtime, every child loves a bedtime story!

What is the purpose of decodable readers?

- To allow students to practise the sounds and spellings being taught in class and to provide an opportunity to build your child's fluency.

How many decodable readers can a student borrow?

A student will initially borrow one book that a teacher will select and after a week, that book can be sent home. 2 decodable readers - one for home, one for school.

When do we change our decodable readers?

We are aiming to change our decodable readers weekly so it is very important that books are returned **every Friday**.

What about the weekends?

We encourage families to read books from our school library, local libraries and from your own collections.

How can I support my child at home?

To support the learning in the classroom, EPS recommends hearing your child read their decodable reader every school night. It only takes a minimum of 5 to 10 minutes. We encourage families to have a reading focus for each night using the same book. This aligns with what is being taught in the classrooms. In class, we will be using the acronym, A.R.P.E. which stands for **A**ccuracy, **R**ate, **P**unctuation and **E**xpression.

Suggestion for home reading:

BUILDING FLUENCY	FOCUS OF THE DAY:	WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?
Monday (New Book)	Accuracy	<i>Your child read all the words correctly and if they didn't know a word, ask them to say the sounds and read the word.</i>
Tuesday	Rate	<i>Not too fast. Not too slow. Just right! Reading at a speed that is flowing.</i>
Wednesday	Punctuation	<i>Read and follow all of the punctuation marks. Talk about full stops, etc.</i>
Thursday	Expression	<i>Read with feeling! Don't sound like a robot!</i>
Friday (Return Book)	All decodable readers to be returned to school.	

When will my child bring a decodable reader home?

As we transition to our new system, we aim to start sending readers home next week.

Does every child have a decodable reader?

No. As our students' reading skills and fluency develop, they transition to chapter books and independent reading. These texts will be arranged with the classroom teachers if required.

From the EPS Literacy Team