

April 1st 2019

Dear Parents,

We are starting 'Rainbow Reading' high-frequency sight words in our class and for homework starting next week. Students move on color levels based on the sight words they have mastered. Mastery meaning they can quickly read the word without sounding out the letters and write the word from memory. It is a colorful display and great incentive for the kids to show what they have learned.

We learn sight words because it helps each child become a fluent reader. It also helps with writing. This week, your child will be given six 'red' words to read. On a weekly basis, I will be assessing the children to see if they are ready to receive more words. Once your child is confident in reading all of the 'red' words, they will move on to the next level.

Your child will bring the sight words home every day (Monday to Thursday) to practice for 5 to 10 minutes. Some ways to practice these words are:

- Flash the words
- Spread the words out, call out individual words and your child points to it
- Fishing: Place a paper clip on each word. Have a small magnet on a string and let them catch a word. If they read it correctly, they keep the word, if not, it gets away and goes back into the pond.
- Bingo: Choose a few words and place them in front of your child. Call out a number of words (some not there) and if your child has the word, they cover it. They shout 'Bingo' once all the words are covered.
- Counter spin: Spin the counter and read the word the counter lands on.
- Stepping stones: Place the words in a row. Your child walks over the 'stones' and says the word. If they don't know the word, remind them and place it at the end, as the last stone.
- Password: Place words that your child gets stuck on, on the bathroom door, bedroom door, fridge etc. and let them read it each time they pass the word.
- Hiding words: Place three words in front of your child. Let them read the words, then they close their eyes while you take one of the words away. They must tell you which word is missing.
- Look for the sight words in their reading books, magazines and newspapers.
- Have them practice writing the words on paper or on a white board.

This reading time should be fun. Be enthusiastic and positive. Focus on how many words your child does know, not how many they don't. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Year 1 Teacher

Ms Rachel