



East Sussex County Council

Newick C.E. Primary School  
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Headteacher: Miss N Alty

### Reading Rocket Phonics

Dear parents and carers,

We have some exciting news to share with you all. We have purchased a new phonics scheme called Rocket Phonics by Rising Stars.

### Our New Scheme

As a staff, we have spent a long time considering the best scheme to purchase for our school. Rocket Phonics has been created for the current curriculum to ensure children make excellent progress and meet or exceed age-related expectations in reading at every stage.

### Phonics Reading Books

At Newick, we believe that it is vital that our home reading books closely follow the phonics teaching that takes place in the classroom. This allows our children to continue practising at home the learning that has taken place at school. Each week, the children will be provided with reading books that are closely aligned to the phonics taught in class.

In addition to this, the children will also have the opportunity to take home a 'reading for pleasure' text from the school to read alongside the phonics reading book. This book can be chosen from our library.

### Fluency

Our main priority at Newick is for our children to become fluent readers. Fluency is the key to becoming a proficient reader. Fluency gives the reader the choice to read at a speed that allows for comprehension. However, if your child is a beginner reader, they do not have a choice about speed because they are still engaged in decoding the words on the page. The more words children can read 'at a glance', the sooner they understand books have meaning and are not just something to decode.

### Re-reading

To improve fluency a child will need to read more words 'at a glance'. In order to do this we will be encouraging the children to re-read their phonics books. You will notice your child bringing the same book home until the class teachers are happy that the fluency and accuracy is clear. This is likely to be 2 or 3 days.



Please do not be concerned about your child returning with the same book. Encourage the reading for fluency. Once you are listening to your child read the book with accurate fluency then you can start to ask them questions to check for understanding and comprehension. At the back of every new phonics reading book there are questions that you can ask your child to further their understanding.

### **New Books**

The school have invested a lot of money (£7500) into this new phonics scheme. We have purchased over 600 new books. The new books are beautiful. They are inclusive, diverse and contain both fiction and non-fiction. Please ensure these books return with the children every day so we can keep these books in their collection for future year groups. Sustainability of resources is very important to us at Newick.

### **Reading at Home**

If children do not practise reading enough, they will be unable to access so many learning opportunities available to them. Evidence shows reading is the most important factor in unlocking learning across the curriculum. Please read daily with your children to ensure they can achieve their potential across the curriculum.

We will be holding a meeting for parents and carers all about our new phonics scheme and reading books. We will be in touch shortly with a date.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Kind regards,

Amy Clarke and Olivia Strachan

(English Leads)