



CANFORD HEATH INFANT and JUNIOR SCHOOLS

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TEACH Trust Poole

Trust Excellence Aspiration Collaboration Honesty

Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.

Friday 24th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Early Years Sound and Keyword book

We have now started the teaching of 'Phonics' (letter sounds) in Early Years and today your child has brought home their 'Sound and Keyword' book. You will see all of the sounds written in the books with an example word for each, to show how they are pronounced. Each week we will use a highlighter pen to highlight the sounds that we have been learning at school. Please spend some time practising these sounds with your child (if you can't remember the pure sounds we shared at the phonics meeting please see the powerpoint on our school website or speak to your child's class teacher). Advice about how to use the sound book, along with suggested activities can be found on the inside cover of the book. It is vitally important that the children learn to recognise the letter (grapheme) and say the sound (phoneme) correctly (not the letter name at this stage). Together, see if you can think of some words with that sound in. Your child may want to draw or stick a picture of something with that sound in on the page.

Writing the letter (grapheme) in the sound book also helps reinforce the correspondence between the letter shape and the sound they make. It is also vitally important that they begin to hold a pencil correctly in order to form their letters accurately as they are learning the sounds that the letters make. Please refer to the letter formation sheet that you have already received for assistance with this (this can be found in your child's 'Learning at Home' folder). Practising phonics at home is crucial, as it underpins all future learning. The more familiar your child becomes with their sounds, the more confident they will become and the sooner they will be able to utilise their sound knowledge to begin reading and writing.

To accompany the 'Sound and Keyword' book we have also included a 'Fun with Phonics' booklet. This booklet contains information about the story and actions we use to introduce the sounds in class. Please refer to this when you are working with your child, but encourage them to tell you the sound (phoneme) and action by looking at the letter/s (grapheme) in their own sound book first.



Canford Heath Infant School Canford Heath Junior School



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Hopefully you will find the booklet helpful when supporting your child through these important stages in their development. We have included some sound book examples from previous years, which may give you a better idea of how the sound and keyword books can be used. If you have any queries or questions about phonics, please see your child's class teacher.

Yours faithfully,

Early Years Foundation Stage Team



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