

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to explain further the reasons for our move to an online reading system in Reception.

We have had to move to the online system as we don't currently have enough titles that align with our Phonics program that can be given out to the children. There is a gap in the market, and although new titles are currently being written by different providers, these are not yet available for us to purchase. Please rest assured that when these are available, we will be purchasing them. The books we provide must be aligned to the phonics program that we follow in school and so we thought moving to an online system would be the best fix until new titles can be purchased so that children's reading progress isn't halted.

We have also spoken with other schools that use the same program and they have had successful uptake of the online system.

We understand that screen time is an issue for some families, but we feel under these circumstances there is no other option for us to provide books that are correctly aligned to the children's phonics phases. We can, however, provide one book per week that will be from a prior phonics phase and your child may have already read this title.

In addition to this, it takes 1 teaching assistant the majority of one day to allocate books, whereas the new online system only takes 10 minutes. We feel that this time is better spent with the children, bringing their learning on.

We fully support and encourage books in the home and if we could resolve this issue in any other way, we would. We are more than happy to provide books that can be shared at bedtime. A box will be available at the classroom door each day. Please also make use of our Little Lending Library which is located under the shelter at the front of school.

We do appreciate your continued support and we apologise for the inconvenience caused by this.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Harper-Taylor

English Lead