13 February 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

When in the early years of reading, it is important that your child knows the ‘most frequently used words’. These words make up on average half the words found in reading and writing. These ‘most frequently used words’ must be known by sight – ‘instantly’. Therefore it is very difficult to read fluently and with meaning if your child has to ‘sound’ them out.

As part of your child’s daily reading, please practise the word list we have sent home. When your child can say the word correctly (without being prompted or sounded out) can you please tick the word. When each word has three ticks, please place the display folder in the tub, ready for a new list of words to practise.

In regards to the words being sent home, it is suggested that your child focuses on between 5-9 words to learn accurately at a time. This will help your child store the frequently used words in their working memory, so that they become automatic.

**Ideas of activities to help practise the words:**

- **CARD GAMES:** For example - Concentration/ Memory, Go Fish, Snap. Write out the word list twice on strips of paper. Play the game with a parent or an older sibling.
- **SORTING ACTIVITIES:** Sort the words according to patterns and features in the words. For example - Words that begin with the same letter or Numbers of letters in each word.
- **ALPHABETICAL ORDER:** Put the words in alphabetical order.
- **SENTENCES:** Make a sentence with your word in it.
- **RANDOM:** Cut out the letters of the word (from a magazine or newspaper) and glue them onto a piece of paper.
- **RAINBOW WRITING:** Write your words in different coloured pencils. You can also trace over the top with more colours.

Please see your classroom’s teacher if you have any questions.

Thank you for all your support,

LINDA KING, MICHELLE LUCAS AND BELINDA MCNAUGHTON