



**Headteacher Mrs L A Garbett**

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**MITHIAN SCHOOL  
BUCKSHEAD  
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Dear Parents and carers,

Following a national update from the DfE around the teaching of phonics, we have moved to Essential Letters and Sounds, which is a phonics programme based on Letters and Sounds which we have successfully used for a number of years. This new phonics programme will support your child in making quick progress to become a fluent and confident reader.

Children will receive daily phonics teaching in class based upon this programme in Reception and in Year 1, before moving on to a spelling programme in Year 2, which will continue to develop their spelling and reading skills. Some children will receive further intervention in phonics and reading in the afternoon to ensure that all children are achieving in phonics to the best of their abilities.

To best support us in teaching your child how to read, we ask that you read the decodable text provided by the school four times across the week. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader. We will be changing children's books once a week on a Friday, which allows your child to reread each text several times to build their confidence and fluency. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelt in different ways. It is a key part of learning to read that children reread words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times, children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency.

The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home. We will only ask children to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves. Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be a sharing book; these are clearly marked with a white sticker in the bottom left hand corner. Children will also be bringing home a book that they have chosen from the library. These books are there for you to read with your child, helping us to instil a love of reading from the very beginning of their reading journey. These could be read together, with your child reading the words they are able to decode or could be read to your child. If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Many thanks,

Miss Kelly

English lead

