

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

GADE VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to all of those who were able to attend the phonics workshop on Wednesday morning, we hope the session was useful and gave you lots of ideas as to how you can support your child's reading at home.

This week, we have also sent home a small list of common and tricky words for you to practise with your child along with their daily reading - this can be found stapled at the back of the reading record. We would encourage you to practise reading these words automatically without segmenting and blending.

Please read the words as normal and ask your child to repeat with you so your child begins to memorise them. This practise is very beneficial for children's fluency; common words such as 'and', 'the', 'it' for example should be read automatically so children do not have to blend and segment every word in a book. It is also helpful in building children's confidence when reading.

Your child reads to a teacher or teaching assistant in class at least once a week. We will check each week that your child can automatically read the words on their list, and we will tick them off in green. Once your child can confidently and fluently recall all the words, they will be given a new list. Please try and practise reading the words in different orders too! We would also like to remind parents about the importance of reading **at least** 5 times a week with your child.

At Gade Valley, reading is very highly prioritised and as such it is the only homework that we set in Reception. It is **expected** that children read 5 times a week and that you **record this in your child's reading record**. To encourage this, when children read 5 times in one week they are given a 'golden ticket'. In Friday's assembly, the golden tickets go into a pot and your child then has a chance of winning a 'Wonka' chocolate bar if their ticket is picked.

Currently, only 40% of children in Reception are reading 5 times a week and getting a golden ticket - this is quite a low percentage in comparison to the other classes in the school. We would really like next week to get some more golden tickets in Reception!

Kind regards

Mrs Watson and Mrs Wiltshire