

DISCOVERY BAY  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
愉景灣國際學校

# FS-2 Home Reading Parent Support Video

Session 1 - September 2025



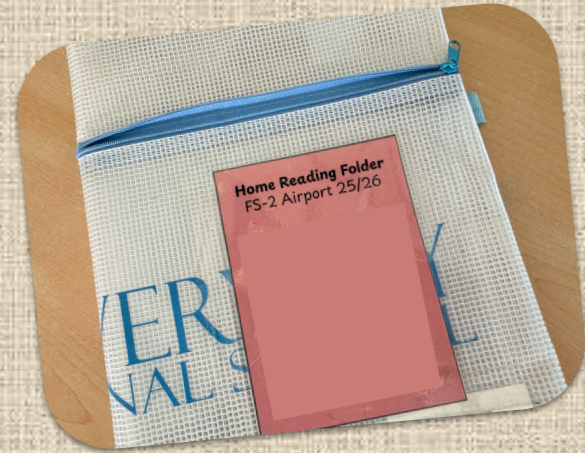
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# Introducing Home Reading Folders

Next week, your child will begin to bring home their **Home Reading Folder**.

Each FS-2 class will send their reading folders home on a **nominated day**.

Please make sure to **return your folder once a week** so reading books can be changed. You can check which day you should return the folder on your class timetable.



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# Home Reading - General Guidelines

The books that your class teacher sends home are very different to children's story books and **should be enjoyed in a different way.**

**We recommend reading with your child for at least 10 minutes per day.**

**Reading together should be a special time.** Try to make reading part of your daily routine where you discuss the book they are about to share with you before you listen to them read.

**Be patient.** Learning to read is a long journey and the focus should be on building their confidence to have a go independently.

Give specific praise, e.g. **"you worked really hard sounding at that word"** rather than "good job!"

**You do not need to finish the whole book each time you read.** You can focus on certain words, pages, or pictures. **Reading the same book multiple times develops memory, comprehension, language, vocabulary, and fosters emotional security by building familiarity and confidence.**



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# What's Inside?

Each week, you may find a **combination of the following** in your folder:

1. Home Reading Diary
2. Fred Time Updates
3. Reading Item(s)
4. Fred Time Resources



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# 1. Home Reading Diary

Your Home Reading Diary includes a variety of **helpful resources** you can refer to at home to support your child's reading journey.

For example, you can see the order in which sounds are introduced, as well as the **mnemonics we use to teach letter formation**.

**Please use the diary to make a quick note of the days you listen to your child read.**

Check the pages carefully as your teacher will occasionally add relevant information about what kind of books your child is bringing home, and when it changes.



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## 2. Fred Time Updates

We will regularly send home “Fred Time Updates” - These are small slips of information, allowing parents to learn **which sounds have been introduced during the week.**

It will include a list of some decodable words that can be read using the sounds introduced so far. For example, “c a t” or “p i g”. You can practise orally blending these words or writing them down and practise reading them.

**You can find these slipped inside your Home Reading Diary or inside the Home Reading Folder.** **These resources are yours to keep.**



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### 3. Reading Items - Lilac Books

Lilac books are designed to **build a love of books** and **develop crucial speaking and listening skills** before children learn to decode words. **The key is to make it an interactive, two-way conversation**, where the child is an **active storyteller**, not just a passive listener.

- You are the storyteller, but so is your child!
- Take a “picture walk” before you start.
- There is no right or wrong story.
- Follow your child’s lead.
- Use open ended questions, e.g.,
  - “What do you think is happening here?”
  - “How do you think they are feeling? Why?”
  - “I wonder what will happen next?”
  - “What would you do in this situation?”
- Model the joy of storytelling.
- Don’t forget the details!

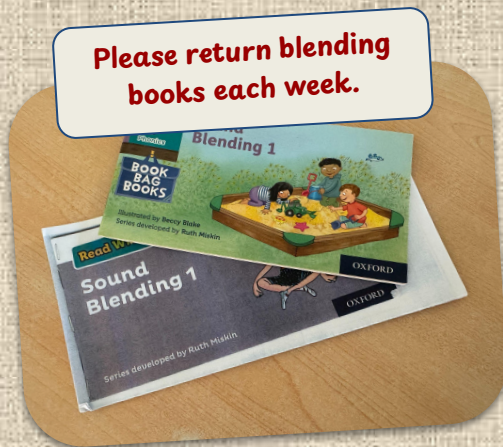


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### 3. Reading Items - Blending Books

Once children have a solid foundation in phonics sounds, they are ready for blending books. **These books are designed to help children apply their knowledge of individual sounds to read whole words.** It's important for everybody to understand that this is a skill that takes time and practice.

- Focus on the pure phonetic sounds, not the letter names.
- Use “Fred Talk” to support blending sounds to hear words:
  - Attempt 1: review individual sounds
  - Attempt 2: say the sounds one by one
  - Attempt 3/4: build speed and confidence
  - Attempt 5: stretch the sounds together
- Use your finger as a guide.
- Support when necessary. The goal is confidence!
- Reinforce the individual sounds before reading.
- Practice makes permanent!



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## 4. Fred Time Resources

Occasionally, you may also find some Fred Time resources you can **use to support your child's phonics journey** at home, including:

1. Sound Books - Simple booklets that include the sounds taught so far and the mnemonics we use for letter formation.
2. Sound Mats - Laminated sheets with full sets of sounds, for example, single letter sounds, special friends, etc.
3. Red words taught so far, and more...

You can use these resources to compliment the books your child brings home. **These resources are yours to keep and do not need to be returned!**



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# What's Next?

**Thank you for investing time to learn more about home reading in FS-2.**

Throughout the year, we will send further information and videos about home reading progression, for example, how to support reading pink, red, and yellow banded books, as well as phonics information and guidance on how to practise sounds and blending at home.

Date for the Diary:

**Reading & Phonics Workshop - Thursday 6th November**

Thank you in advance for your patience, support, and plenty encouragement during your child's first steps into the wonderful world of reading!



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