

Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September

Dear parents and guardians,

Next week we will begin our Jolly Phonics programme which is the method we use to teach children reading and writing skills. As this is new to most of you, please read this letter carefully as it will include new information concerning your responsibility with this matter and hopefully clarify any doubts you may have. Listed below are the items you will find in your child's red bag as from next week:

**Blue Reading Folder:** This will go home on a daily basis even though the books will only be changed **twice a week**. Teachers will let you know on which days books will be changed (these are different for every class). All items contained in the reading folder should remain inside it. The reading folder should come and go in the red bag **every day**.



**Reading Record:** This is a spiral book where the information about the book your child is reading will be kept. Please fill in the date, title and sign in the parent column after you read. **The book will only be changed if you sign it.** The comment box is optional.



**Reading Book:** In this beginning stage, children will be taking books with predictable texts. These are stories that are repetitive and where the child might be using the pictures to help him/her tell the story. We suggest that the parent reads the story first and then your child can try to retell the story in English. **Children should not be expected to read the book.** He/she can talk about the pictures and answer questions about the story.



Modelling how to hold the book properly, reading the title, talking about what the story might be about, reading from left to right and pointing to the words are a few ways you can help. As your child begins to recognise the tricky words that will be introduced,

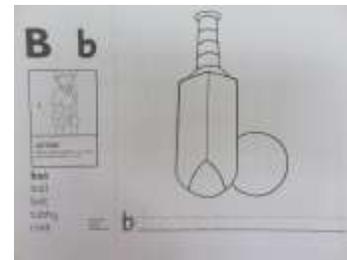
he/she will take books with these words in them. When children are able to blend confidently they will take phonics books home which they will be able to read.

**Once your child starts blending**, you will be called for a meeting to explain how this will work, which means some parents might be called in this term and other parents, the next.

**Sound Book:** This is a little book where your child will stick the letter that corresponds to the sounds taught each week. It can be used at home to practice as they continue to learn their sounds. The child will know the sound that corresponds to each letter and a movement that goes with the sound. Celebrate and learn from your child. Children are learning the sounds of letters **NOT** their names as they will then be able to blend these sounds together to read phonetically.



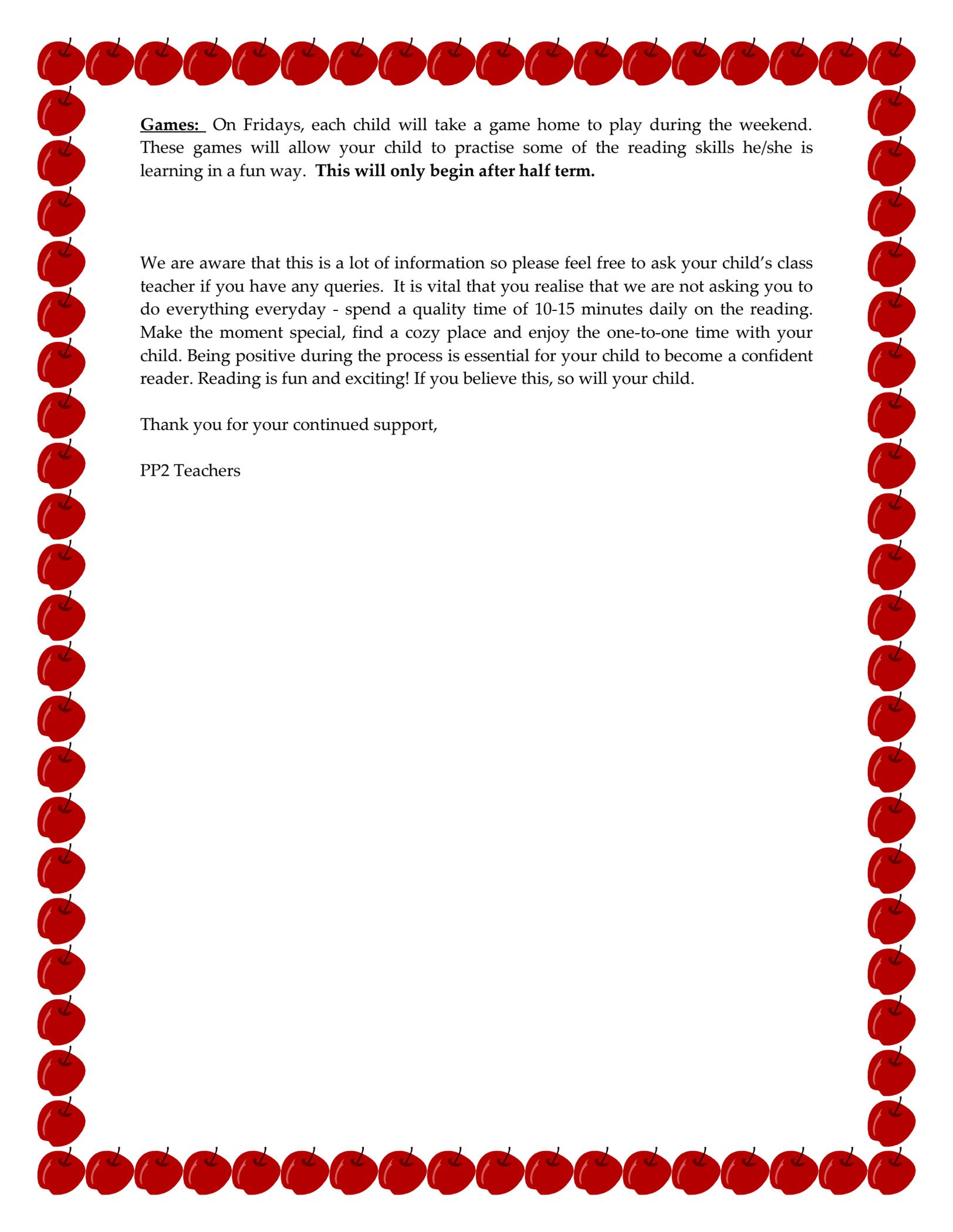
**Sound Sheets:** This is a worksheet that will be available for children to colour in class during the week if they choose to. They will be sent home by the end of the week to inform parents the sounds we are learning and the movement for each letter. We are **NOT** focusing on letter formation at this moment. **Please keep these sheets at home** –you might want to purchase a plastic folder to keep them all together.



**Tricky Word Sentences:** A tricky word is a word that in most cases cannot be read phonetically and therefore your child needs to visually remember (memorise) it. After we introduce the first five tricky words, we will send them in the blue folder for your child to practise. As soon as he/she is able to read them, he/she will begin receiving sentences with the new tricky word.



Each child will begin to read the new tricky words at different rates. When your child is able to read the new tricky word introduced, he/she will get new sentences to help practise these words. It is important to understand that tricky words have to be learned through visual memory. The tricky words will contain a box around them to distinguish them from other words. Since they need to see these words many times before they internalise them it is crucial keep coming back to the first ones that were taught.



**Games:** On Fridays, each child will take a game home to play during the weekend. These games will allow your child to practise some of the reading skills he/she is learning in a fun way. **This will only begin after half term.**

We are aware that this is a lot of information so please feel free to ask your child's class teacher if you have any queries. It is vital that you realise that we are not asking you to do everything everyday - spend a quality time of 10-15 minutes daily on the reading. Make the moment special, find a cozy place and enjoy the one-to-one time with your child. Being positive during the process is essential for your child to become a confident reader. Reading is fun and exciting! If you believe this, so will your child.

Thank you for your continued support,

PP2 Teachers