

Reading at Shurdington Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that all your children are settling into their new classes and enjoying being back in school. With the new year in full swing, I am writing to update you on some changes within our teaching of reading.

The importance of reading

The importance of reading cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their well-being, and their mental health! Reading is a key life skill, and it is placed at the heart of our curriculum. This year, we have carefully selected texts for each year group which will ignite the children's imagination, inspire their curiosity, and provide a window into the world.

EYFS and KS1

Following an update from the Department for Education around phonics teaching we have moved to Essential Letters and Sounds, this is a phonics programme based on Letters and Sounds (2007). This new phonics programme will support your children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers.

Due to this change, we will need to spend a significant amount of money topping up our reading books to ensure that they are in line with this new phonics scheme. The books that we send home with your children will be carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school, during the week. They will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home.

As you can probably imagine, having over 30 plus books, for each teaching week of the year, for every year group, does not come cheap! Therefore, we will need to build our supply up over time. As a result, you will be provided with two types of books.

1. **Fully Decodable ebooks** – These books will be assigned to your child online via the Oxford Owl website. **Each Friday**, teachers will assign a book that is matched to their teaching in class, and your children's phonic knowledge. We ask that you read this book with your child **four times** across the week. Although this might sound like a lot, reading with your child for 10 minutes a day will hugely support them on their journey to becoming an independent reader. Re-reading a book helps to build a child's confidence and fluency. The Oxford Owl website will allow you to score a book, and teachers are able to monitor your reading at home.

Information about how to access these books are attached below.

2. **Sharing books** – We know that it is hugely important for the children to be able to hold and experience a real book! Therefore, **every Friday** we will be sending each child home with a second book which is to be **read with an adult**. These books will contain some sounds that the children may not be familiar with, and therefore they will need some support.

For many children, by the end of Year 2, they will no longer need a fully decodable book and they will continue on their reading journey following the Oxford University Press levelling system (explained below). Your class teachers will keep you informed of this change.

In school we are working hard to instil a love of reading, and therefore all children will have weekly library sessions, and pick their own library book to have with them in class.

KS2 children

In KS2 we are keen to continue to support the children to become fluent, confident readers. As a result, children remain on the Oxford University Press levelling system. Teaching staff will be working hard to level your children, to ensure that they are receiving books that match both their comprehension, and their word level knowledge. We are again, hoping to top these books up to ensure that children are not re-reading the same book. We would appreciate your patience as we top up these levelled reading books in school. It is still vital that you listen to your children read, as frequently as possible! Children in KS2 also have regular library sessions which promote a love of reading. These books will be kept in school for them to enjoy!

Supporting your child

There are a number of ways that you can support your child at home.

- Read at least four times per week with your child.
- EYFS and KS1 – Log into Oxford Owl to access your fully decodable book.
- Make reading pleasurable by finding a quiet, comfortable space and giving your child your full attention.
- Ask your child some simple questions as they read to check their understanding.
- Use positive language and praise their reading efforts.
- Read to your children as part of your evening routine. This builds vocabulary, feeds imagination and can even improve sleep patterns!
- Ask your children about books/stories they are reading at school.

Supporting School

- Over the course of the year we will be running a number of fundraising events. If you would like to support this effort in any way please do get in touch!
- As always, we LOVE having you in school, so if you are able to give up a morning to read with the children we would love to hear from you. You can get in touch with the office to get started!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks for your continued support in your child's education.

Mrs Denley

EYFS and KS1 - How to access your ebook



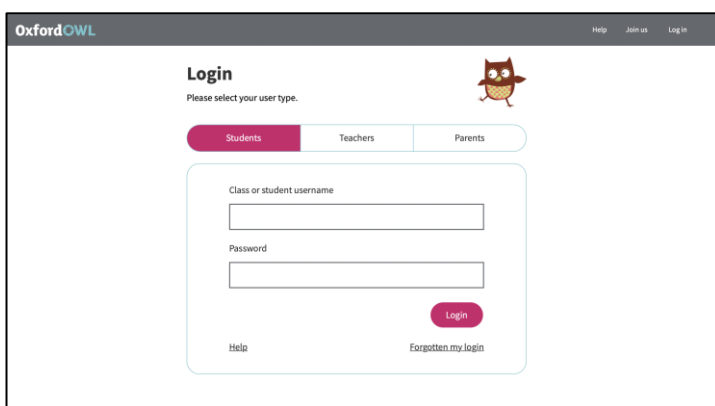
www.oxfordowl.co.uk

School code:
zrq0

Your username:
josh.denley

Password:
hippo78

1. Over the next few weeks you will be given a sign in card.



OxfordOWL

Help Join us Log in

Login

Please select your user type.

Students Teachers Parents

Class or student username

Password

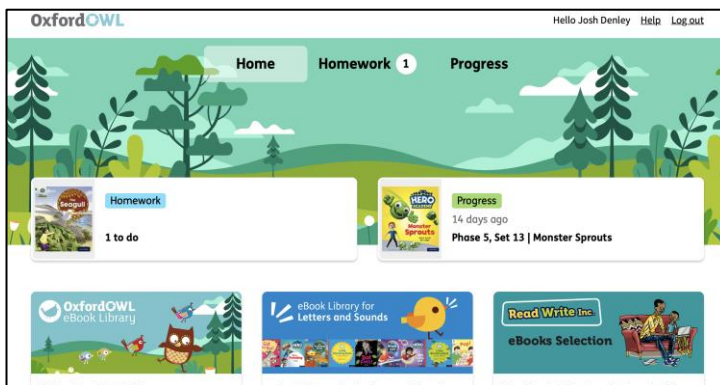
Login

Help Forgotten my login

2. Go to Oxfordowl.co.uk

Click on the students tab.

Use the details above and click 'log in'.



OxfordOWL

Hello Josh Denley Help Log out

Home Homework 1 Progress

Homework 1 to do

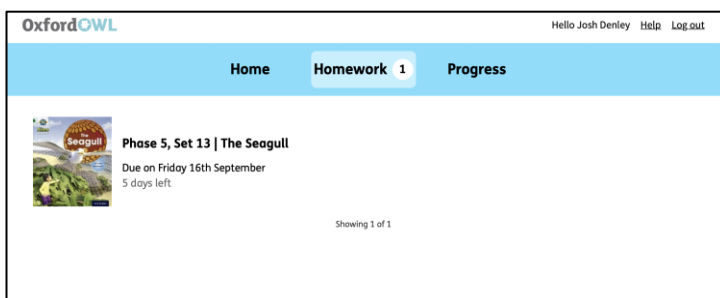
Progress 14 days ago Phase 5, Set 13 | Monster Sprouts

OxfordOWL eBook Library

eBook Library for Letters and Sounds

Read Write Inc. eBooks Selection

3. Your homepage should look like this.



OxfordOWL

Hello Josh Denley Help Log out

Home Homework 1 Progress

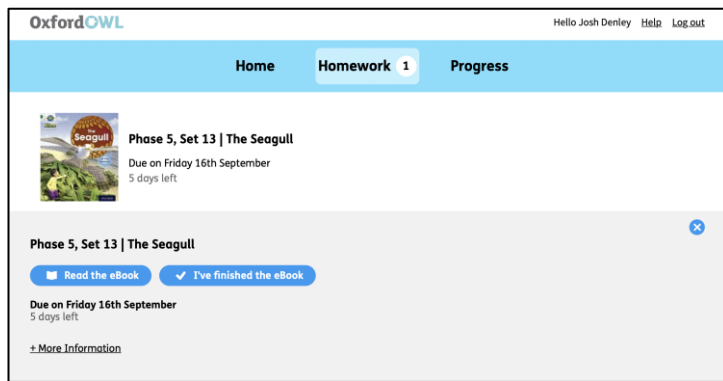
Phase 5, Set 13 | The Seagull

Due on Friday 16th September
5 days left

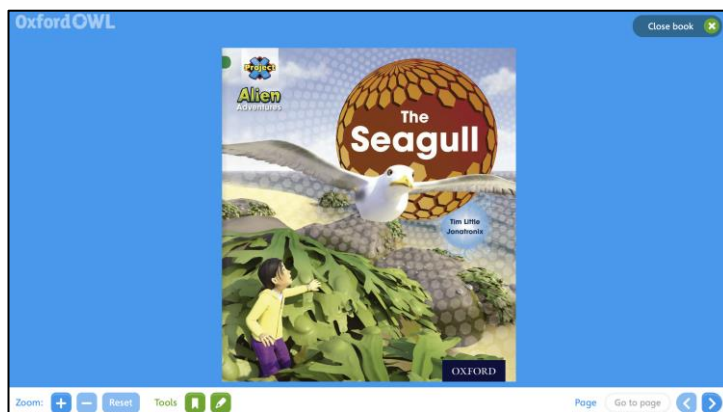
Showing 1 of 1

4. Click 'Homework' to view your child's assigned book for that week's teaching.

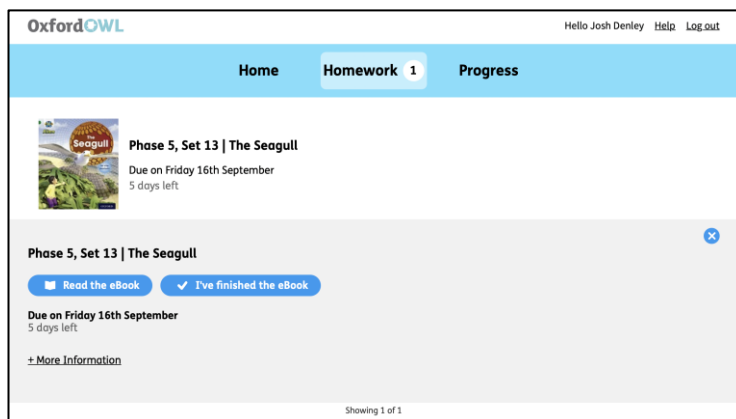
Click on the book image to open.



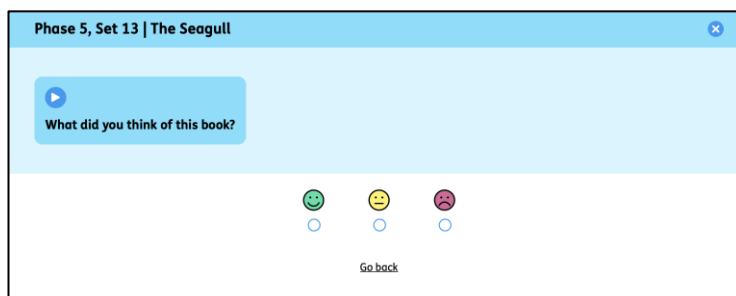
5. Click 'Read the eBook'



6. Once you have opened the ebook you can scroll through the book using the arrows at the bottom of the page.

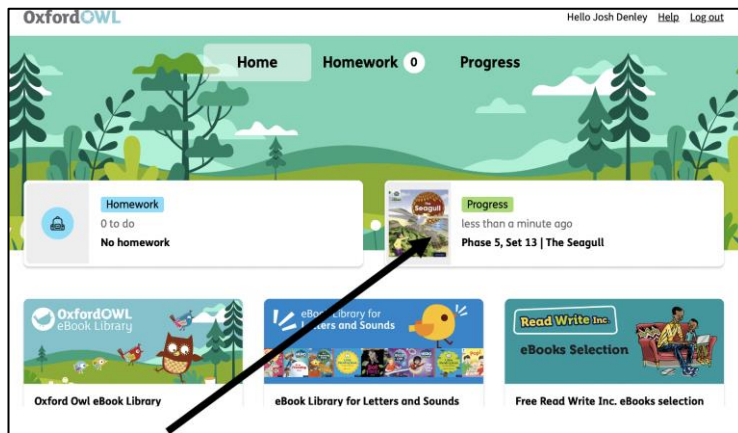


7. Once you have finished you can close the book and click 'I've read the eBook'.

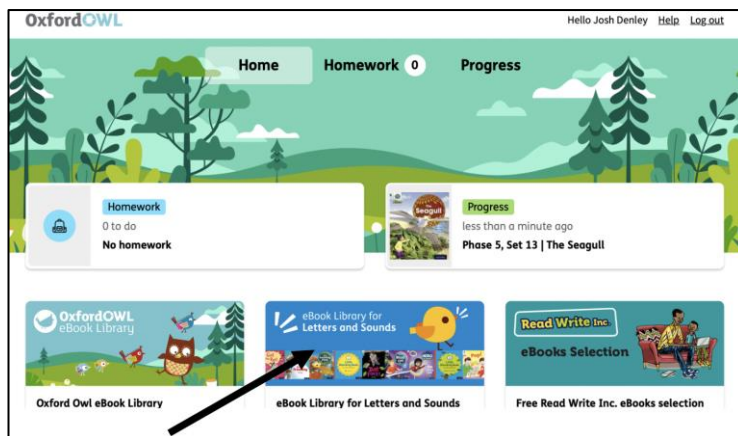


8. You can let your teacher know what you thought of it.

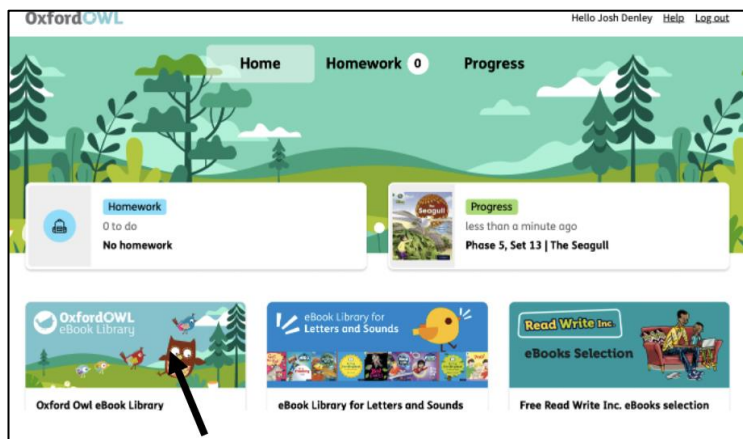
This will help us monitor your reading at home.



9. The 'Progress' tab shows you what you have read and how you felt about each book.

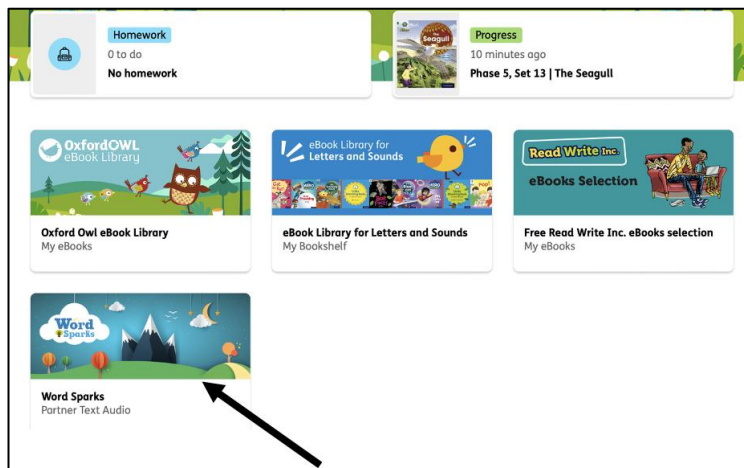


10. 'eBook Library for Letters and Sounds' allows you to read books that have been previously assigned.



11. 'Oxford Owl eBook Library' gives your access to other ebooks.

Please note: These are not all fully decodable and should be read with an adult.



12. 'Word sparks' provides Audio books for children to listen and read along to.