Supporting English at Home

Reading

- Try to read with your child regularly. Little and often is best.
- Listen to your child read, but keep reading to them too – even when they can read independently.
- Talk about the book: What was your favourite part? Why did that happen? What do you think will happen next?
- Let children choose things they enjoy reading – stories, information books, poems, comics and magazines all count.

Phonics

- If your child is learning to read through Read Write Inc., practise the sounds and reading activities sent home from school.
- Give them time to sound out and blend an unfamiliar word before helping.
- Rereading the same book is useful – it helps children become quicker and more fluent.

Talk and vocabulary

- Talk about your day, places you visit and things you notice together.
- If you come across a new word, explain what it means and try using it again later.
- Encourage children to explain their ideas and give reasons for their answers.
- Songs, rhymes, jokes and word games are all useful ways to play with language.

Writing

- Give writing a real purpose: cards, shopping lists, notes, recipes, labels, diaries or stories.
- Encourage your child to say their sentence before they write it, then read it back when they have finished.
- Praise the ideas and effort as well as spelling and presentation – writing at home does not need to become a test.

Spelling

- Practise spelling words or patterns sent home from school in short bursts.
- Look for patterns and links between words rather than only learning a list by heart.
- Notice words when you are reading together and talk about how they are spelt.

Handwriting

- Encourage children to sit comfortably and take care with letter formation, size and spacing.
- Short, careful practice is much more useful than a whole page completed quickly.
- Follow the letter formation and joining guidance used in school so children receive the same message at home and at school.

If you are unsure how best to support your child, please speak to their class teacher.