Dear Parents,

This year your child will learn English using *Learn English with Dora the Explorer*. You have an important role in your child's English education. You can help your child be successful in English, regardless of your own level of English.

Oxford University Press (OUP) has partnered with Viacom Nickelodeon Consumer Products to create a compelling English Language Teaching program for young students that can be used at school or at home.

As a leading children's broadcaster, Nickelodeon's characters have educated and entertained children for decades, using a storytelling technique which is designed to improve children's critical-thinking abilities. This, combined with OUP's trusted teaching methodology and valued relationships with Primary teachers around the world, means that your child will have fun in their English classes while also making progress.

**Welcome to the world of Learn English with Dora the Explorer!**

With Dora, every English class is an adventure. On this adventure, your child will learn lots of English words and useful phrases. The course is unique in that it features the beloved characters from the Nickelodeon television series *Dora the Explorer*. Dora and Boots the monkey inspire students to enjoy learning English and to care about the world around them through a positive, “can-do” outlook on life and community values.

As you know, young children learn in many different ways, sometimes listening to stories or working quietly at their tables, and sometimes being more physically active. This course gives students opportunities to use English in a variety of fun activities that will also help them develop linguistic, artistic, physical, and emotional skills, and ultimately fulfill their potential. Your child will sing songs, practice simple dialogues, perform role plays, and work with classmates on projects that build their confidence in listening and speaking. Your child will also watch official *Dora the Explorer* animations in which Dora asks them for their help to reach her goal, developing children's thinking and speaking skills. At the end of every unit of the Student Book, your child will be able to celebrate their achievements by being given a sticker and joining the *We did it!* chant; they’ll reflect on what they have learned with a fun craft project, too.

Learning a language isn’t just about learning words—it’s also about understanding and respecting other people and relating to them in a positive way. In each of the animations, children see Dora and her friends exhibiting positive values (e.g., working together, helping friends, and being careful) and this is supported with follow-up activities to develop your child’s emotional understanding.
The optional *Phonics and Literacy* strand builds early phonics and literacy skills. It can be used together with the rest of the *Learn English with Dora the Explorer* series to support children’s pronunciation and to develop the reading and writing skills they need for a seamless transition to school.

Language learning goes beyond what happens in the classroom. Even if you don’t speak much English, your support and encouragement are extremely valuable; *Learn English with Dora the Explorer* provides many opportunities for you to be involved in your child’s learning. Play the songs and read the stories with your child when you get the chance, and talk to them about what they’re learning in their English lessons.

The *Reading Stars* graded story and phonics story books also offer 15 engaging stories per year that you can read at home with your child. They feature the much-loved Nickelodeon characters from *Dora the Explorer*, *Blaze and the Monster Machines*, and *Team Umizoomi*. The *Reading Stars* books act as a perfect companion to support your child’s first steps to reading success; they are tailored to the needs of children using the course and matched to its syllabus. As you read together, you can also listen to the audio so your child can learn the correct pronunciation. You can see the progress your child is making and hear them joining in with parts of the story. You can even take on roles and act out the stories together.

You can further support your child’s learning using the Parent’s Guide, which explains what your child is learning in each lesson. Use the Parent’s Guide to review what your child has learned at school and to check his or her progress. You can do the home study activity together, review the Activity Book, and use the Class Audio CD to practice the new words. You can also use a game or activity from one lesson to practice language in another lesson.

**Tips for Using English Together**

- Don’t worry if you don’t speak much English. You still can be a lot of help in your own language, especially when first starting out. Seeing you use the English that you know will inspire your child to speak English, too!

- Encourage and praise your child’s progress. Celebrate your child’s achievements in using English.

- Don’t be afraid to make mistakes, and to laugh at your own mistakes. Let your child make mistakes, too. Your child will learn from your example and have more fun learning the language.

- Practice English with games that involve movement. Use real objects and pictures to make practice more relevant to your child.

- Create opportunities for your child to see people using English.

Learning a language is something which takes time and patience, but the best way to help your child become excited about learning is to show that you are excited, too. The *Learn English with Dora the Explorer* parent’s website will guide you as you support your child and join their adventure in learning English!