



Reading in Reception



Your child is always encouraged to be aware of text around them in the classroom, and to use their phonic knowledge to help them read, and write, in everyday activities and routine. Each week your child will have a reading time: this may be either reading individually with a teacher or teaching assistant, reading as part of a group, reading games and activities, or guided reading which will be introduced later in the school year.

Each day there will be a Phonics session: letters and their sounds are introduced, also the process of blending sounds and segmenting words and recognising tricky words. We will keep you updated with the sounds and words throughout the year.

At home

The most important thing to remember is that reading needs to be enjoyable! At this stage the love of stories and the use of their imagination is what we want to ignite. If your child is tired they probably won't want to read and may become frustrated, the last thing we want is for them to associate this feeling with reading! It is perfectly OK to have a night or two off from reading – instead perhaps just enjoy reading to your child.

At the beginning of term they will take home books without text, (children will choose from a selection). Picture books are very important, as they provide an opportunity for you to talk with your child about the pictures and to support their realisation that pictures help understand what is happening in the story (a helpful strategy to use when text is introduced and they are unsure) and allow the child to make up their own words for the story. They also introduce the idea of a story structure, getting used to handling books, turning the page in the correct order, finding the front cover (we all start somewhere!)

Once they are ready they will be introduced to books with some simple text, these will be chosen by the children from a selection of appropriate books. Please note that some books will be more of a challenge than others. There will be three different types of books, decodable, sharing and weekend books.

Decodable books

These are books that will support their phonic knowledge and for your child to attempt to read independently. They will include some 'tricky words', (everyday simple words that cannot be sounded out).

Sharing books

These books develop different strategies, e.g. prediction, word recognition, use of picture cues. Your child may need some help with the words to start with as they cannot all be sounded out, but as the text repeats, they should gradually be able to join in and continue.

Weekend books

These will be books chosen from our book corner or the library. This is just a chance to enjoy a good children's book together. These will be chosen some Fridays.

We would like to know how your child gets on with reading at home, and therefore we will send a reading record book for you to write a comment on your child's responses to the books. Your comments will be very helpful for tracking their development and progress, and we can include them in their individual profile. Please remember, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's reading, you can write in their book or catch us for a chat.

Lastly some top tips! We hope they are of some use...

- Choose a time that suits both of you, maybe the same time every day.
- Choose a place without distraction, (switch off the TV, or use a different room).
- Listen to your child's ideas and talk to them about book characters and stories.
- Keep the sessions short- about 10 minutes.
- Praise their ideas, praise their responses, and praise their interest as much as possible, so that your child begins to enjoy and look forward to sharing books.

HAPPY READING!

Useful websites

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ParentsMenu.htm>

This is a website we use frequently in school. There is a special parents section on the homepage that has information on phonics and lots of interactive games you can play with your child.

<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

The Family Reading Campaign website provides lots of information to support you and your family. The Family Reading Campaign works to encourage reading in the home. There are also many links to other websites.