

Home Reading



What is Phonics?

Phonics is an approach to teaching some aspects of literacy, by developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of the relationship between written symbols and sounds. It helps the children hear, identify and use different sounds when reading. Phonics improves the accuracy of the child's reading.

Changes To How We Teach Reading

The teaching of phonics is explicitly and systematically taught in school in order to support children in making connections between the sound patterns they hear in words and the way that these words are written.

We have recently purchased some new reading scheme books and reorganised how the books are sent home. This is to further support the children's link between the sound and written word. This approach brings our reading approaches/schemes in line with the new National guidance about how to teach children to read.

There are two types of reading book that your child will bring home:

- **A reading practice book** - This will be at the correct phonic level for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. Once beyond Phonic Phase 6 children will bring home two reading books.
- **A sharing book** - Your child may not be able to read all this book on their own as it is not fully decodable and may not match their exact phonics level. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. These become independent reads from Turquoise level onwards.

The Reading Practice Book: Rocket Phonics, Bug Club, Dandelion Readers, Twinkl Rhino Readers

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy - your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise - celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

As part of our homework policy we recommend that children read for a short period of time each night. Please continue to record this reading session in your child's reading record.

The Sharing Book: Oxford Reading Tree, Snapdragons, All Aboard, Songbirds, Engage Literacy, Treetops, Project X,

The sharing book is a book your child can read, with help from you, or you can read together. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters or explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

Library Book:

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The library book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters or explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

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Support for Parents

We will hold an annual reading meeting to help support parents and answer any questions you may have. This can be attended in school but will also be accessible online. These video link below might be helpful

<https://lettersandsounds.org.uk/index.php?page=overview>

How we Teach

Each year group, from Nursery to Year 2, follow a systematic structure that allows children to:

- revisit prior learning
- introduce new phonemes and their related graphemes
- segment and blend words
- write new words
- learn 'tricky' exception words
- review learning

Phonics sessions are short, focused sessions and occur daily. Extra 'catch-up' sessions are held for any pupils that require it.

Jargon

You may hear your children say...

-**phonics** (also known as 'synthetic phonics') - The teaching of reading by developing awareness of the sounds in words and the corresponding letters used to represent those sounds.

-**phoneme** - Any one of the 44 sounds which make up words in the English language.

-**grapheme** - How a phoneme is written down. There can be more than one way to spell a phoneme. E.g-the phoneme 'ay' is spelt differently in each of the words 'way', 'make', 'fail', 'great', 'sleigh' and 'lady'. We call these 'special friends', sounds that play together.

-**blending** - Putting together the sounds in a word in order to read it, e.g.

'f - r - o - g, frog'

-**segmenting** - Breaking a word into sounds in order to spell them, e.g. 'frog, f - r - o - g'

-**digraph**- 2 letters making one sound

-**trigraph**- 3 letters making one sound

-**Blend friends** - letter that sometimes we see together at the beginning and end of words e.g. s-p-r or n-k



Teaching of Handwriting

To teach our handwriting scheme in line with phonics, we will teach a non-cursive approach to handwriting in Nursery and Reception. The importance is to ensure that letters (and numbers) are formed correctly moving in the correct direction.

Cursive 'lead-ins' will be introduced in Year 1 onwards.

Moving on

When your child has finished the decodable reading books and is secure in Phase 5 phonics, they will bring home 2 colour banded books and one library book.

As part of our homework policy, we recommend that children read for 10 minutes or longer each night. Please continue to record this reading session in your child's reading record.

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When we feel that your child's reading and comprehension is at an age appropriate level we will introduce a 'free reading structure.' Pupils at this point will be able to borrow two library books. A written comprehension task will be included at this stage.

As part of our homework policy, we recommend that children read for:

Nursery - share and enjoy books little and often

Reception - up to 10 minutes 5x per week

Year 1 - 10 minutes 5 x per week

Year 2 - 15 minutes 5 x per week

Year 3 - 15 minutes 5 x per week

Year 4 - 15 minutes 5 x per week

Year 5 - 15 minutes 5 x per week

Year 6 - 15 minutes 5 x per week

Please record or encourage your child to record, this reading session in their reading record. Each class will have its own set days for homework exchange. This is shared in our Meet the Teacher presentations and termly letters.

Please talk to your children and ask questions about the following things when you listen to them read:

- Draw inferences, such as inferring characters thoughts, feelings and motives and finding evidence in text of this.
- Predict what might happen from details stated and implied
- Identify main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarise these
- Identify how language, structure and presentation contribute towards meaning
- Retrieve information from the text.
- Participate in discussion about the books they have read.
- Discuss words, phrases and new vocabulary.

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