



Helping your child with reading in Years 1 and 2

Here are a few guidelines that may be useful in supporting your child when practising reading at home.



Applying phonics to reading

In Years 1 and 2, the children will continue to learn new and alternative letter/sound recognition through phonics, and we continue to encourage this as their first strategy when reading unfamiliar words. They learn to read words with a variety of different suffixes and are taught the spelling rules when adding suffixes. A couple of minutes on sound recognition or spelling rules before reading each day can really help boost your child's confidence.

We will match reading books with your child's level of phonic knowledge and will move the children to more challenging material when they are ready.

Understanding the contents of a book

Please continue to share books with your child by reading to them and talking about pictures, characters and story. It is vital that children pick up a range of reading skills and really start to be able to talk confidently about what they are reading. Try pausing mid-story and predicting what could happen next, or talking about whether you like a character or not and why. If your child has a favourite author, compare different books by them. To help children develop their comprehension skills, characters are used to teach children how to predict, infer, retrieve information, sequence information and read for meaning. On the attached sheet are examples of the questions we will be using in class. When reading with your child at home, you may wish use these to help develop their comprehension skills.



Word Lists

To consolidate your child's blending skills we will send home lists of words concentrating on the sounds your child is currently learning.

The children will continue to learn more words which cannot be phonetically decoded. We will send home the 'tricky words' lists so that children can practise recognition and add to their fluency.

Tracking text



Please encourage your child to point at the words they are reading as long as they need to, and continue to help your child break up words that they find hard to blend. As your child becomes more confident, they will be able to track text with their eyes, and begin to scan ahead within sentences.



Reading at School

We will read regularly with your child, not only in individual or guided reading sessions with the class teacher and TA, but also in daily phonic sessions. Your child may now change their reading book daily, as they come in in the morning. Please remind your child to do this, and we will also remind them when we read with together.

As soon as your child is blending words confidently, they will begin to learn in a guided reading group of up to 7 children. This enables us to read more frequently with your child and to develop higher reading skills more effectively than in individual sessions. Your child will also read individually with a member of staff at least once each half term, and this is when we will write specific targets in their reading diaries to help them progress. If we feel any children need more 1:1 support, we will read more often with them on an individual basis. In guided reading sessions, we will stamp your child's diary to show that they have read in school today.

Please continue to use your child's diary to communicate your own comments about your child's progress each time you read at home.



Reading at Home

Please read regularly with your child - just 5 - 10 minutes helps enormously. Find a good time when your child isn't tired, sometimes weekends may be better than weekday evenings. We will continue to put target statements in your child's diary to help you focus on the different reading skills we will be working on in class.

If reading time becomes difficult for whatever reason please let us know, as this should be an enjoyable experience for you both, and we will help where we can.

Thank you for your on-going support.