

Reading at Shirley Infant School



During your child's time at our school, we strive to install all children with a love of reading. Each fortnight, the children have the opportunity to visit the school library and choose a library book to read at home. (Your child will have a set day to change their book so please ensure their library book is in their book bag ready to change). Each half term, the children will learn about a popular author and will enjoy hearing a range of their stories. We encourage you to visit your local library and look for books written by the chosen author. There will be reading challenges along the way. Look out for 'Masked Reader' challenges on google classroom where a mystery teacher will read a story in disguise for your little ones to guess.

Applying phonics to reading



Within daily phonics sessions, your child will begin by learning the alphabetic code of the English language. Our approach is to teach letter/sound recognition through phonics. Once they can do this, they will be taught to blend letters to read words. The children can only be expected to read books for themselves once they have developed this skill. Your little one will bring home a sound booklet for them to practise with you at home.

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 'sight 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 reading sessions with the class teacher and teaching assistant, but also in daily phonic sessions. Your child will read at least once a week and will change their reading book with the member of staff to ensure they have an appropriate book to practise with you. Please practise this book several times so that your child is confident and can answer questions about what they've read. Reading at home should be a pleasurable experience and a chance for your child to consolidate what they've learnt and show off their new skills.



Reading Diary



Your little one will be given a reading diary to record reading at home. Each time you read with your child, please sign in here. If your little one can read at least 3 times in a week, they will be awarded with a point. The class who has the most points that week will earn a new book for their reading area. Please check your child's reading diary for targets to work on, and use it to communicate your own comments about your child's reading progress. **Please ensure this is in your child's book bag at all times, along with their reading book otherwise they will not be given a new book.** When your child is a confident reader, they will begin guided reading sessions in small groups.

Reading colour sequence system

Within two weeks of your child starting full time, they will take home a picture book (dark pink). This will then be changed weekly by your class teacher. Please discuss what is happening in the story and how the characters are feeling, building up your child's comprehension skills and love of reading. When your child's teacher thinks your child is ready, they will progress to simple decoding books (pink 1). This is done on a 1:1 basis based on the child's confidence, comprehension and sound recognition and the books are carefully selected by your child's class teacher so they can practise new sounds learnt. When your class teacher feels they are ready to progress to red, they will move them on. Remember children progress at different times and rates so please try not to compare your little one to their peers.



Bedtime Stories

Reading a Bedtime story is not only a great way to establish a night time routine, but can also help promote a lifetime love of reading for your child. Through hearing stories, children develop their language and communication which is vital for all aspects of their learning. Look out for a workshop later in the term run by Karen Allan (our Family Support Worker) on 'Bedtime Stories.

Reading at home

- Please encourage your child to read their coloured book regularly at home. Remember to encourage your child to re-read the book to build confidence and to ask them questions about what they've read.
- Visit the local library to find books written by the chosen author study.
- Read a range of stories to your child to help promote their love of reading and to be able to retell different stories.
- Your child's class teacher will marvellous me, the new sound of the week so you can practise reading words with this sound.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Mrs Lubbock-Smith (English Co-ordinator)