

How We Teach Reading, Writing and Phonics in EYFS

1. Phonic skills

As soon as your child starts in Class One they will be learning phonics – learning to crack the alphabetic code. This involves learning letter sounds and shapes, hearing and saying the sounds in words in the correct order as well as being well on the way to being able to read and write the **44 phonemes or sounds in the English language**. We teach the children by using Read, Write Inc programme and Letter and Sounds. Once your child has learnt some of the 44 phonemes they will be taught how to blend these together (squash them) to read simple words.

2. Tricky words

Words which are not easily blended are learned by sight. We will send home these words to be learned as flashcards so that children can practise reading them easily and at speed. You could make it a game by putting the words on card and hiding them around the house!

3. Levelled reading books

Early on in the Autumn term your child will come home from school with a 'reading' book. These first books will have no words so that your child can learn to use the pictures to tell a story. This is an important reading cue which they will use to help them in their reading until they become more confident readers. Once your child is able to use pictures to tell the story we will move them onto levelled reading books. We use many different reading schemes but all are levelled into colour bands according to their ease of reading.

4. Wider reading skills

In addition to phonics, your child will also start learning comprehension skills, understanding story sequences, structure, language and characters. They will also look at different types of texts: story, information, poetry. Your child should become more familiar about how a book works; that the words carry meaning and that we read from left to right and from top to bottom.

5. The teaching and practice of reading

The teaching and practice of reading takes place in a variety of ways:
Shared reading where the teacher uses a Big Book and models good reading practise to the whole class.
Guided reading where a group of children sit with the teacher who teaches them specific reading skills.
Individual reading practice might be with the teacher, teaching assistant or a parent helper.

6. Reading through structured play

Early years learning encourages good speaking, listening, reading and writing in all sorts of settings. Language games, outside play and role play will all be activities that your child will be excited to tell you about.

7. Reading linked to writing

Once children begin to squash letters to read words, they can begin to say the sounds needed to write simple words and are encouraged to have a go at this from early on. Your child will start to write simple sentences, to form letters correctly and to begin to notice punctuation marks and to use them.

8. Books to share - practice at home

We will send home books along with a communication book for you to contribute to. Do not worry if your child cannot read all of the words – read the difficult words for them and encourage them to use the pictures to help them. Sharing a book in this way helps develop story structure and language skills and familiarises children with handling books.

9. Contact and progress

We encourage you to have regular and informal chats with your child's teacher, as you drop off/collect for example, as well as at more formal parents' meetings. Use the communication book too! Teachers will be monitoring your child's progress through observation and simple activities and we also complete a learning journey of your child's work to show you at Parent Meetings.