Phonics and Reading in the EYFS

This is taught using the RWInc reading and phonics scheme and this is a highly effective and successful, structured synthetic phonics programme. Children’s progress within the scheme is monitored closely not only by the practitioners in EYFS but also by the RWInc reading manager in school. Children’s progress is tracked regularly and effectively to ensure maximum progress in phonics and reading for all children and this phonic assessment is used to ensure that there is fluidity amongst the groups and that children have the right skills to become successful readers.

Children learn: Word recognition (decoding)

Language Comprehension—before children can comprehend what they have read they must be able to decode words effortlessly. In Reception we use synthetic phonics to teach children how to read, and follow the Read, Write Inc phonics programme just like the rest of our school. Synthetic phonics is simply the ability to convert a letter or letter group into sounds that are then blended together into a word. Synthesise means to put together.

First children learn to say and match the letter sounds (GPC) and work to become fluent in reading each letter sound quickly, these are called our ‘speed sounds’. Children need to read these sounds quickly in order to blend the sounds together to read simple regular words e.g. c-a-t...cat. Children know this as ‘Fred Talk’. Next they learn to segment the words by breaking down the sounds for spelling e.g. cat...c-a-t.

Reading books

At school the children have opportunities to read daily through signs and labelling in the environment and through the planned play opportunities. When children demonstrate confidence in a growing sight vocabulary and can sound out and blend sounds together to read words then their teacher will select a book for your child’s skill which is appropriate to their level of development.

Please ensure your child’s reading book is returned regularly so children have opportunities to read and discover many books. Please support your child as much as you can by sharing stories and reading books together. Please sign the diary and complete a comment as we see this as an important opportunity to develop further dialogue with parents and carers about their child’s reading progress.

Support for Parents/Carers

In September we hold a Phonics/reading meeting for parents to introduce them to the RWInc programme which we follow in school. Staff are only too happy to provide further support and guidance throughout the year.