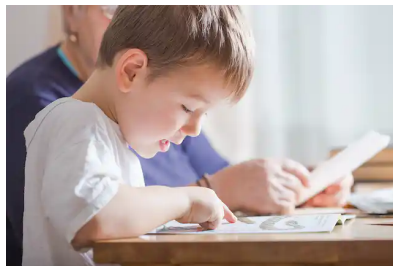


Tips and Tricks for Reading Phonics Books with your child



Each week your child will bring home a Phonics Reader Book. These books will match the Phonics teaching we are doing in school and is a book your child should be able to read to you. For the first few weeks of Reception, books will be wordless and have been designed to get children talking about books and into the routine of finding the title, looking at the blurb and sitting down with an adult and sharing a book every day. Your child will receive books with words to read once enough sounds have been taught in class and your child is secure with them. We really would recommend finding time to share a Phonics book every day. **Please note, your child will not receive a new book until their previous one has been returned.**

Some tips and tricks for supporting your child when reading their Phonics books.

- Keep Phonics book reading time separate to the time in which you share Library books. Reading Phonics readers is a different experience. It is a good idea to share Phonics reading books sat at a table so your child can have the book laid flat and used their fingers to follow the text and point to the sounds. Reading for Pleasure books are great for cosying up on the sofa or reading together in bed before your child goes to sleep.
- Look at the inside cover before sharing the book. Check your child can read the sounds and words listed here before they read. Talk about what these words mean if your child is unsure.
- Use the Phonics information sheets sent home weekly to help your child pronounce the sounds.
- If your child is struggling on a word, always encourage them to use their phonics skills to read it: pointing to each sound and blending them together. It is important that they use their phonics, rather than other methods such as looking for clues in the picture to work out a word.
- Read the words before discussing the pictures. Talk about how the pictures show what the words told us and give us extra information, rather than the other way around.
- If your child has needed to sound out multiple words in a sentence or read in a robotic voice as they decoded, encourage them to re-read the sentence for expression and meaning.
- You will have the same book for a whole week and books will not be changed more regularly. This is because it is important for children to re-read the same book lots of times for practise, fluency and understanding. The first time you read, you can focus on the skill of reading each word and on what they mean. On subsequent reads, you can then focus on seeing if your child can remember what happens next, reading words on sight without sounding them out, reading with expression, talking about what happens, asking and answering questions, talking about what they might do if they were in the story etc. By the end of the week, we want children to be able to read the book fluently, with expression, understanding and confidence so that reading is a successful experience.
- Record when your child has read in their reading record and let us know how they got on, what they were brilliant at, if they had any difficulties and if you need any extra support.

If you have any other questions, please ask.

Happy reading!