

Reading in Reception

Your child will be starting to read for themselves but still needs your support.

Encouraging them to read by being an enthusiastic listener and talking about books together will make a definite difference to their success.



How we teach children to read at school

There are two elements to learning to read which your child will develop during their first year at school: *word recognition* and *language comprehension*. All of the activities that school put in place around reading will be aimed at developing either one of these elements.

Word Recognition

At Ninelands, children are taught to read and recognise the words on the page using phonics. Phonics is an approach to reading that focuses on saying the sounds that represent a letter (such as 'p' or 'm') or groups of letters (like 'ch' or 'igh') and from them making a word. For example, once they know the sounds for 's', 'a' and 't' they can sound them out, blend them back together and make the word.

Language Comprehension

Good comprehension skills are so important as they help children with reading for meaning. In Reception, we develop comprehension through story sessions as these books are more involved in terms of characters, settings and plots than the ones the children can read for themselves. We spend time talking to the children about books we have shared together so that they can understand the ways that stories work.

Books at School



The books your child brings home from school are part of our reading scheme. Reading schemes are structured sets of books, that gradually grow more challenging. Children begin reading on a coloured band and once the teachers decide they are ready, they move onto the next level. Most schemes start with wordless picture books and develop into phonic based books to support children in securing those early reading skills.

We send one book home every week, two over the half term holiday. The new book is read with staff in school on a Monday and then sent home for you to keep for the week. Your child needs to bring their book back the following Monday, for it to be changed.

Wordless Picture Books

The stories in wordless picture books are told just through their illustrations or sometimes they have a few words. Sharing wordless books with a child provides an opportunity for literacy-rich conversations. Each "reader" listens and speaks and, together, they create their own story. Sharing wordless books also makes clear that, in many books, the story and the pictures are connected.

Below are a few pointers for sharing wordless picture books with your child:

- Recognise that there are no right or wrong ways to read a wordless book. So many different stories can be told from the same pictures.
- Spend time looking at the front cover and talk about the title - from both of these make some predictions about the story.
- Take a picture-walk through the pages of the book. Look carefully at the illustrations as they will be rich with detail - spend time describing the setting of the story and the expressions on the faces of characters. Just talk to one another about all that you can see and get a sense of what the book is about.
- Go back through the book a second time and get ready for some story-telling. Show your child what they could do, for e.g. have characters use different voices, add sound effects, use interesting words.
- Encourage your child to then tell their story as they turn the pages - focus on the words they use and help them extend their vocabulary and expand their sentences by adding in information from the details within the illustrations.
- Ask your child 'W' questions...Who? Where? When? Why? What?
- Finish your story by asking a few simple questions such as...What pictures helped you tell the story? What was your favourite part of your story? Why? Has that ever happened to you?



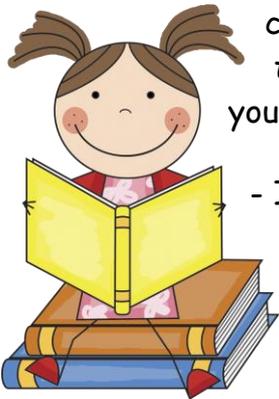
For a book with few words, there will be so much talking and fun between you both. Speaking and listening is the foundation for all literacy learning.

Books with Words

Your child might bring home decodable books from school which are designed to allow them to apply the phonics skills they are learning in school and read independently. In phonic lessons, your child will be learning to link sounds to letter shapes and then use these to build words. Some words however are tricky and cannot be sounded out - such as 'said' and 'the', so please keep pointing these familiar words out and practising them with your child. Other words may be new and unfamiliar to your child and in some instances you might choose just to tell them the word. However, as the year progresses they will have the phonic skills to apply to the word and should at least attempt to read the word first, before you intervene.

Below are some suggestions on how you can help your child read these books at home:

- After you have read a book, play letter-spotting and word games like these with your child: *Can you find Pat's name on this page? Can you find the word 'and' on this page? How many words can you find on this page that begin with 't'?* Get your child to ask you too!



- If your child gets stuck on a word, check first if it can be sounded out and blended back together. If your child still cannot work out the word, then you can show them how to say it and move on.

- Before reading a book together, always talk about the title, the pictures and any other information on the cover - both front and back. If the book is new, ask your child what it might be about and what makes them think that. If you have read the book together before, ask them what their favourite part is and why.

- When reading aloud, use lots of expression and try different voices for the various characters. See if your child can copy you!

- Ask your child to share what happened in the story. Help them by asking: *What happened first? What next? And then after that?*

- Ask each other questions once you have finished the book to check they are reading for meaning e.g. *What did you like best? Why did the tiger let Floppy go? Have you ever played a trick on anybody?*

We hope you find all of this information helpful and will talk to you about your child and their reading at our consultation evenings. However, if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Reception Team