

Uplands Primary School



Supporting your Child's Reading Information for Parents 2023

Why is reading so important?

Reading is an important tool for learning and for life. Without reading we would not be able to access and understand the wide range of information available to us. In addition to this, it is a fantastic way of using our imaginations and exploring other worlds through stories.

Learning to read and improving reading skills are most successful when they are done in partnership with school and home.

Any support you are able to give will really improve your child's progress in reading. We understand that parents are often keen to support their child with reading but are often unsure how to go about it; here you will find some advice which we hope you will find useful. However, please remember, teachers are available to give advice and support whenever you need it.

How is reading taught?

Initially, in Years R and 1, reading is taught through systematic, synthetic phonics. Our school has chosen to use *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* as our systematic, synthetic phonics programme to teach early reading and spelling.

Phonics is: making connections between the sounds of our spoken words and the letters that are used to write them down. This is taught daily in both Year R and Year 1. More information and a presentation explaining teaching of phonics and how to help with phonics at home can be found on our website.

Reading practice sessions using the phonically decodable books are timetabled and taught 3 times a week in small groups with a trained teacher or teaching assistant.

After children have learned to use phonics to decode and read fluently, reading is mainly taught through guided reading lessons with their teacher in class. This means they read, high quality, interesting texts, individually or as a group and explore and discuss the text together. There will also be a range of other reading activities that will take place in English lessons as well as teaching and learning about the reading skills they will use across the other subjects.

Skills that are taught include:

Decoding – how to read words they don't know yet (continues from phonics and applied to any text they encounter)

Skimming and Scanning a text – finding information quickly

Comprehension – understanding what you read and explaining how you know

Inference and deduction – can you say how a character feels from what you have read? (Reading between the lines)

Summarising a text – what was that text or extract about?

Predicting what will happen in a text

Looking at themes and conventions in a story – is there a theme of bravery and courage? Does this book have the main things we would expect of a fairy story?

Reading and discussing a wide range of authors.

Reading for pleasure

It's not just about the skills of reading.

- Teachers have a class book which they read to the class as often as possible (usually daily)
- Children get to visit the library and choose and share books with their friends
- The new Ebooks platform SORA is now available – please let us know if you need further details.
- Lunchtimes, a quiet area trolley is available with books to read in an undercover area complete with picnic tables and bean bags.
- When possible, we organize author visits to our school.
- We celebrate World Book Day when all children are given the chance to enjoy and celebrate books.

The best thing you can do to help is read with your child.

Reading a book and chatting has a positive impact on a child's ability to:

- Understand words and sentences
- Use a wide range of vocabulary
- Develop listening comprehension skills

Reading your child's reading book together at home.

Your child will bring two to three books home which may include a Little Wandle Ebook. While children are learning and embedding their understanding of phonics, they will have a Little Wandle reading book, a shared book to read together and a library book.

Listening to your child read their phonics book at home:

- Your child should be able to read their book without your help.
- If they cannot read a word read it to them.
- Talk about the book and celebrate their success.

Phonics reading books are selected carefully to ensure your child has the right level for them.

This means that your child should:

Know all the sounds and tricky words in their phonics book well

Read many of the words by silent blending (in their head) – their reading will be automatic

Only need to sound out about 5% of the words by the time they bring the book home- but they should be able to do this on their own.

The Shared book:

This is for you to read – this can include their library book.

- Make the story sound as exciting as you can by changing your voice
- Talk with your child as much as you can about the book
 - Introduce new and exciting language
 - Encourage your child to use new vocabulary
 - Make up sentences together
 - Find different words to use
 - Describe the things you see.

After they have embedded their understanding of phonics, they will bring home a colour band reading book (Purple, Gold, White then Lime) and two library books. Once children are reading Lime books confidently and are able to understand what they are reading, they will have 2 library books to bring home to read.

Children at any level need to read aloud and be heard by an adult.

Although children will often want to read in their heads, it is good for them to read aloud to you to practise expression and fluency.

Discuss with them what's happening in the text and ask them questions to help improve their understanding and encourage them to understand words they are unsure of.

My child doesn't like reading and won't read – what can I do?

Read to them as much as you can and don't make an issue out of it.

Discuss with your child what they like doing and try to find books on that subject – non-fiction books are a good starting point or comics, magazines, even practical texts such as DVD or computer game instruction manuals can stimulate reluctant readers. Also talk to the class teacher as working together will help.

Top tips for reading at home:

- Read aloud to your child
- Take turns to read aloud to each other. They can learn from your expressive reading and you can check they are not struggling.
- Ask questions about the book - maybe about what might happen next or a character's motivation – see our helpful reading questions.
- Make sure they understand any new or unusual words or phrases.
- Choose a regular time to read –that suits you and your child
- If your child starts to get frustrated, try again the next day.
- Before beginning to read, spend some time looking at the pictures and discuss what the story might be about.
- Encourage your child to point to the words as they read to you.
- At natural stopping points, talk with your child about the meaning of the text – what’s happening, or what’s been learned.
- Ensure that the whole process is positive by praising your child in specific terms for good reading. For example, “That was a hard word. You did a good job sounding it out!”

Questions to ask when reading with your child.

- Where/when does the story take place?
- What did s/he/it look like? Who was s/he/it? Where did s/he/it live?
- Who is your favourite character in the book? Why?
- Where in the book would you find...?
- What do you think is happening here?
- What happened in the story?
- What might this mean?
- What part of the story do you like best? What makes you think that?
- How does that part of the story make you feel? How do you think the character feels?

What could my child read? Anything and everything!

- Picture books
- Novels
- Newspapers
- Recipes
- Websites
- E books
- Road signs
- Non-fiction books
- Comics
- Graphic novels
- Or listen to audiobooks

Choosing books:

You child will bring home library books and a reading book or ebook (if reading book bands or Little Wandle phonics) but you can also:

- Go to the library – its free and there's an amazing selection and helpful librarians
- Use different media to find out about books e.g. you tube has book trailers. Watch book trailers and/or films that go with them and compare.
- www.thebooktrust.org list of 100 best books from the last 100 years (split into age groups)

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/>