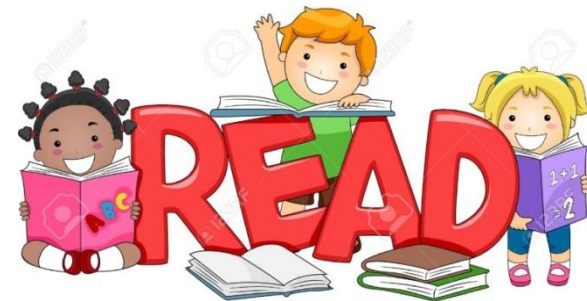


# Early Reading at Whitegate End Primary School and Nursery



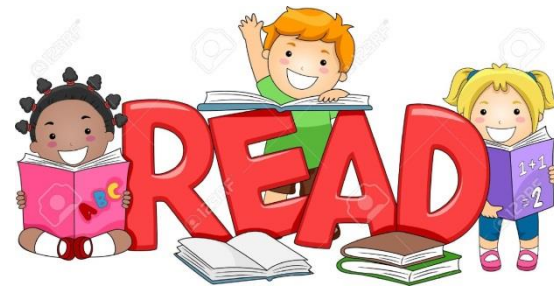
# A recipe for an 'Effective Reader'



1) Allow Phonics to develop

2) Stir in Reading skills (different  
from Phonics)

3) Sprinkle on handfuls of 'a love of  
books'



# 1) Phonics

- At Whitegate End we follow the Letters and Sounds phonics programme, the programme covers 6 Phases from Nursery to Year 2.
- It focuses on the pure sounds the letters make (no 'uh' added on the end of the sounds)  
Here is a video to demonstrate - [Letter sounds](#)

## Phonics vocabulary

- **Blending** means verbalising the sounds in a printed word in order, to **read** the word
- Segmenting is verbalising the word slowly and picking out the sounds in the order they are heard to **spell** the word
  - Phoneme = the sound (as demonstrated above)
  - Grapheme = the printed letter
  - Digraphs = two letters that make one sound eg, ay as in 'day'
  - Trigraph = three letters that make one sound eg, igh as in 'night'
- Sound buttons - dots for single sounds and dashes for digraphs and trigraphs helps children to identify the sounds in the word before attempting to blend/read it. eg **boats**
- Keywords - these are very common words that should be read quickly from sight to help with the fluency and flow of reading. Many of the words cannot be phonetically decoded and we help the children to 'Remember what it looks like!' eg, said, you
- Nonsense/alien words - words which help children to practise their phonics skills but are not real words eg, zoot

# Phonics in Nursery

In Nursery children will take part in daily Phase 1 phonics sessions. Phase 1 phonics promotes listening and attention and exploring different types of sounds ready for reading. This is a vital stage within your child's reading journey and should be fun and explored in depth to provide the skills and foundations for a confident reader.

The aspects of phase one are:

- General sound discrimination (environmental)
- General sound discrimination (instrumental)
- General sound discrimination (body percussion)
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Alliteration
- Voice Sounds
- Oral Blending and segmenting

These skills must be mastered before beginning phase 2 which begins to introduce letter sounds.

# Writing the graphemes

In Early Years we use the letter formation from another Phonics programme called Read, Write, Ink. It is the only part of the programme that is used. It gives children a memorable way to learn how to form each of the graphemes. We stress the importance of 'Keep your pen on!' and not building up a number of strokes for each letter. The only letters the children need to take their pen off for are f,i,j,t,x. As the children move through KS1 they will learn how to make their letters cursive ready for joined up writing.

See separate sheet for full list of the RWI letter formation pictures and 'keep your pen on' letters.

Around the apple  
and down  
the leaf



Round his bottom,  
up his tall  
neck, down  
to his feet



Down a horn,  
up a horn  
and under  
his head



Down Maisie, over  
the mountain,  
over the  
mountain



## 2) Reading Skills



Children's reading skills are focused on children's understanding of the way stories are structured, their understanding of what is happening in a story, being able to reading with expression. The best way for children to develop these skills are plenty of story times with good role models of reading (me and you!) including plenty if discussion about the story. The ways we promote this in Reception are:

Timetabled, high quality story times each day. Some of these session include pre-planned questions and discussion points.

Teacher's 'pick of the week' in the book corner.

A special book box for our favourite stories. The REALLY good ones we add a copy of the cover to our washing line.

Ensure the children have access to a range of texts including traditional fairytales, fiction stories, non-fiction texts, poems.

Provide opportunities for children to become story tellers - our book corner, role play and small world areas lend itself to the development of this skill.

All of the above help to develop the child's bank of vocabulary for ready too! Essential for future writing.

# Reading at home...



## Lending Library

Whilst your child is in Nursery they will have access to the Lending Library. Each child will be given their own Lending Library wallet to store their library book. Each Friday your child will have the opportunity to choose a book from the lending Library to take home for the weekend to read and enjoy with family and friends. This is a brilliant opportunity for the children to enjoy a variety of books to read and talk about with you at home.

## Story Sacks

Nursery children will also have opportunities to take home Story Sacks. These will include some high quality texts and activities for you to enjoy at home to spark that interest in different books and bring them to life.

# 3) A love of books



The importance of your children WANTING to read, having a favourite book, enjoying story times and naming their favourite authors cannot be underestimated. Children who are passionate about the things they have read make greater progress in reading AND in writing! At Whitegate End we encourage this by:

- Being passionate about story times ourselves and making them high quality and engaging sessions. Seeing 30 children gazing at a book, making no sound or movement, and simply engaging and listening to a story is the BEST feeling as a teacher.
- We have a successful 'Secret Reader' initiative that includes parents. More details will be provided on this once current government guidance allows us to restart.
- Ensuring library books are banded correctly and included in the home-school reading book schemes.
- Star-books after school club
- Celebrating World Book Day
- Engaging with The Book Fair
- Teachers 'top picks' where teachers recommend books for their class to read.
- Classes keep an on going display/washing line of their favourite texts they have read throughout the year.



# What can you do?



Make time for talking - don't use 'simplified' versions of words you think your child won't understand. Use trickier vocabulary often and they'll pick it up in no time.

Support your child in their reading journey by helping them to complete any reading/phonics activities set by your child's class teacher

Visit the library - There's no such thing as a child who isn't interested in books, they just haven't found the right one yet!

Make up stories and rhymes together

Make reading part of the routine - bedtime story!

Find worthwhile reasons for your child to read and write eg, invitations, baking

Be a Secret Reader (when it's safe to do so!)

Keep books separate from toys

Talk about your favourite books and authors

And above all... READ! If your child sees you reading and enjoying a book, they will too!

