

Holly Class Home reading

Welcome to your child's reading record

Your child has this reading folder to help you to stay in regular contact with us about your child's reading, so please sign and date when you listen to them read and write a comment if you have time. It is intended as a written conversation between home and school and we will occasionally give pointers or small targets for your child at home so that both home and school are adopting the same approach.

Book changing

Children will progress through the colour book bands and it's important that they have a period of time where they are comfortable reading these books for understanding and enjoyment before moving onto the next colour band. We aim to review books as we hear readers at school, but please let us know if your child is finding their colour particularly easy or challenging.

The books are designed to help children learn to read and so don't worry if some books seem quite short. It may be that they bring home the same book occasionally but the repetition can support their learning. We will change reading books at school when your child is ready.

Reception children will start with books which have no words as they haven't learned enough sounds yet to be able to read yet. Please use the pictures in their books to make up stories and talk about what the characters might be doing; you could make up a story and then they could make up a different one!

Reading progression

Finger Pointing - Try to encourage finger pointing under each word read, which is helpful for sounding out the letters to read words and for developing left to right skills.

Guessing Words – Your child should be able to use their knowledge and understanding of the sounds the letters make and the tricky words they have learned but they may also use many strategies to guess words whilst beginning to read such as:

- picture clues
- rhyme
- story patterns
- making substitutions (a word with roughly the same meaning)
- using initial letter sounds

**Remember meaning is most important of all –
Your child needs to understand the story events all the way through.**

As Your Child Progresses –

- Before opening book, predict what they think the book is about, what's the title, the author etc
- Talk about the plot
- The characters
- The background of the picture
- Things they like/dislike
- Any rhyme or repetitive patterns they have noticed
- Don't be afraid to ask your child to re-read the book

Tricky Words

There are words that your child can sound out e.g. 'sat' but there are also common tricky words that cannot be sounded out easily e.g. 'was'. Children come across these words often in their reading books so it is useful to encourage children to recognise these words by sight. In time, children will have tricky words to practice at home as they progress through their phonics learning.

Guided Reading

Guided reading takes place regularly at school. Children work in groups with the teacher and teaching assistants, where they will learn further reading skills, deepen their understanding and discuss answers to questions relating to the same story.

Have fun!

The most important thing for children is to enjoy reading and that these tasks are not a chore. Please continue to read books from home, picture books, information books, comics, magazines, leaflets, phonebooks, shopping lists, library books and so on. Children enjoy learning little and often, every day.

IF ANY PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS HAVE A SPARE HOUR TO HELP WITH READERS IN CLASS, WE WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT AND THE CHILDREN LOVE HAVING SOMEONE THEY KNOW IN SCHOOL!

Please come and speak to us if you encounter any problems and thank you for your continued support at home.

Many thanks,
Mrs Wallis, Mrs Chillitupa and the Holly Class team!