



Reading at Home in Reception

We aim to instil a life-long love of reading in children who read for both pleasure and for a purpose and know that a positive partnership with parents is key to achieving this. Reading at home as often as possible is one of the most important ways you can support your child.

In Reception, your child will be able to practise their reading at home in three different ways.

1. Phonics Challenges

The sounds that your child is learning in phonics lessons and/or simple words containing these sounds will be sent home for children to practise reading aloud. These will be in their Communication Books.

When reading words, we teach children to say each of the sounds corresponding to the letters and then **blend** the sounds together to **read the whole word**. As words become familiar, we encourage reading these 'at a glance' – that is, no longer saying the sounds consciously. This skill takes repeated practice and your support at home is invaluable.

2. Wordless/Phase books

A **Wordless book** is a book that tells a story purely through the illustrations. Wordless books are a fantastic way to **build key literacy skills**, including listening, vocabulary, comprehension and awareness of how stories are structured. Our [website](#) contains further guidance on [reading wordless books at home](#).

Sharing wordless books at home **with** your child is beneficial in developing imagination, language, expression, narratives and much more. After shared discussions, they should be 'read' to you **by** your child. Wordless books will be changed by staff **weekly** when they are placed inside Communication Books and left in the class box by the gate.

Phase books enable children to practise their **word reading** skills and should be read to you **by** your child. These books are carefully matched to your child's phonic 'Phase' to make children feel successful from the very beginning of their reading journey. Children should be able to read these with a **high level of fluency** that enables them to transfer and apply phonic knowledge. Repeated reading can help children achieve this.

Up to three Phase books will be sent home on a **weekly** basis.

3. Library books

These are independently chosen by your child from our school library and changed **weekly**.

We strongly encourage reading **aloud to** your child regularly, even as they become accomplished readers. Research shows that giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns.

We **welcome comments** about any of the above books that you read at home. Please record these on the weekly reading sheet in your Communication Book. Comments from both children and relatives are welcome and help teachers to keep track of home reading.

We would like to draw your attention to the [Phonics](#) and [Reading virtual parent presentations](#) (password Chestnut) and the [Phase 2](#) and [Phase 3 interactive pronunciation guides](#), which are available on our [school website](#), along with many other useful resources. Some top tips on encouraging children to read can also be found [here](#).