

# Supporting Your Child With Phonics and Reading



*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*We would like to thank you for all the support we know you give your children with phonics and reading at home. We've put together this information about our approach at Wincheap so we can work together to develop and encourage your child's reading. If there is anything else you would like to know or discuss, please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher.*

By hearing children read at home, you can help them become better readers by giving them more opportunity to practise through reading aloud to an adult.

## Your child may be:

- a beginning reader – a young child who is in the early stages of learning to read
- a developing reader – a child who has already learned the basics of reading

- a child who is finding it difficult to learn to read
- a fluent reader – a child who can read well for their age.

Your approach to hearing your child read will depend on their age and reading level, but there are plenty of ways you can support. Reading with your child, or encouraging your child to read independently for just ten minutes each day can make all the difference and help them develop a love of reading or a love of books.

## Top Tips to Help Children Enjoy Reading

### *Make it Fun*

Enjoy reading together. Give characters funny voices and engage with the pictures. Make games of finding words that rhyme or begin with the same sound. Take breaks to keep it relaxed. Reading is tiring at first before children build their reading stamina. Let children choose books that tie in with their interests and return to favourites again and again. Repetition helps children learn to read!

### *Ask Questions*

Ask questions as you read, e.g. What is the story about? Why did that happen? What do you think will happen next? What was your favourite part of the story? If you are reading the book to your child, let them hold the book, turn the pages and interrupt you. Talking about the book helps them make sense of what they are reading.

### *Make Space*

Make a special time and space for reading and make it part of your daily routine.

### *Be Seen*

Try to make sure your child sees you reading, or read with them, so they know adults read too!

### *Praise and Encourage*

It's important that children become confident with reading, so use lots of praise and encouragement and avoid criticism.

### *Use Technology*

With adult help, this can be a great route to engage your child through activities that build their vocabulary and encourage reading e.g. using YouTube to find the words to nursery rhymes, reading e-books or playing reading and spelling games.



## School Reading Books

Your child will bring home reading books from school which will be closely matched to their reading development. We teach reading through phonics at first and then progress to successively more challenging texts.

Alongside this carefully-structured approach, we also aim to expose children to as much 'real' reading material as possible from a range of genres including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. This is essential to children's reading development through building vocabulary and comprehension skills and fostering a love of reading. Whilst children are in the early stages of reading fluency, they will bring home a 'Love of Reading' book alongside their school reading book. This book is for you to share and enjoy together purely for pleasure.

In the early stages, your child's reading book will be a book they have read in school and can confidently read to you. It will be closely matched to their learning in school and a chance to practise and repeat read at home, and so should appear easy. Please give lots of praise for your child's successful reading.

## Phonics at Wincheap



Success for All  
Phonics

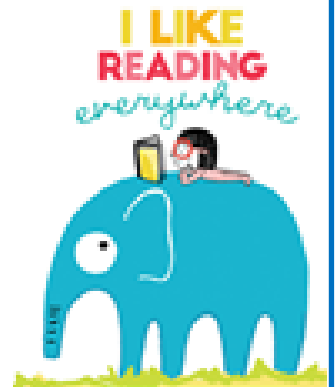
Phonics is quite simply a way of helping children learn to read and write in a systematic way through teaching the relationship between the letters and groups of letters (graphemes) and the sounds (phonemes) they make.

We follow the FFT Success for All Phonics programme for our phonics teaching to help your child to learn all the skills needed to successfully read, write and spell. It is part of a wide range of literacy programmes that come from FFT which we use across the school to support children develop fluency and confidence in reading. There are lots of engaging resources and 68 decodable reading books which will be used in class and sent home in either hard copies or digital books.

You can read advice and watch videos on how to support your child and practise reading the Shared Readers at home on the FFT Parent Portal: [Tips for Home Reading – Parent Portal \(fft.org.uk\)](https://fft.org.uk)

### Tips to help

- Know that a GPC is a grapheme phoneme correspondence. That means a sound is matched to one or more written letters: /a/ /ai/ /ay/.
- Saying pure sounds is important
- some sounds stretch e.g. m, n, r
- some bounce e.g. b, p.
- say them softly and say a word that begins with the sound to help.
- try to avoid a big 'Uh' sound at the end
- Be aware that your child will be learning GPCs each week and applying them to reading and writing.
- The Shared Reader book you practise at home with your child will include the focus GPC that they have just learnt that week. They will have also read that Shared Reader in class that week.



You can watch videos on how to pronounce pure sounds on the parent portal.

### FFT Success for All Phonics Books

- \* Please listen to your child practise their Shared reader book daily and celebrate their success.
- \* Make sure your child has their book in school each day so we can practise with them too!
- \* Books will be changed once a week and we'll also send home links to digital versions via Seesaw. Please enjoy reading and talking about them each day. Repetition will boost your child's reading fluency and sight recognition and gives you a chance to celebrate success!
- \* It is important not to rush on with reading books that contain unknown GPCs. We are embedding and consolidating learning in a systematic and progressive way, so it's important not to try to push your child on too quickly.
- Green words are decodable (you can use phonics to read them)
- Red words are tricky words which means they have parts that are not decodable and need to be memorised.
- Green and red words may be sent home as spellings.
- Reading for pleasure is always great. Hearing you read aloud and listening to stories and rhymes is an important part of children's learning.



Some children may take part in 'Tutoring with the Lightning Squad' which is an FFT tutoring programme to develop their reading skills. They will work in a small group on engaging and fun online activities which are designed to improve fluency, comprehension, phonics and spelling.

