



Hunslet Moor Primary School
Co-Head Teachers:
Miss H Darley and Mr S Crawford
☎ 0113 2717257

7th December 2021

How we teach Reading – answers for parents

The Read Write Inc. Phonics programme

Dear parents/carers,

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible. We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

Read Write Inc. will now be the programme we use as a school to teach the children to read. On our recent training day, staff had training on how to teach using this programme and we have an ongoing training plan in place.

As part of this programme we have purchased book bag books. These are books that the children will be bringing home to support the work we do at school. Staff are now working hard to ensure that these books are ready for your children to take home after the holidays. Therefore we are asking children to return all books that belong to school this week to support us with this change. When the children return to school from the holidays in January, the books that your child brings home may look different to the coloured book bands that you are used to. There will be further information about this in the new year.

Please read the information overleaf which outlines how we will be teaching reading and some of the changes we have already made this year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please arrange to speak to myself or your child's class teacher by making an appointment through the main school office.

Miss Wicks

Assistant Head Teacher and English Leader

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How will my child be taught to read?

We start by teaching phonics to the children in Reception classes. This means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters. Ask them to show you what these are.

The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'. The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. They start thinking that they *can* read and this does wonders for their confidence. The teachers read to the children, too, so the children get to know all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps their writing.

How will I know how well my child is doing?

We will always let you know how well your child is doing. We use various ways to find out how the children are getting on in reading. We use the information to decide what reading group they should be in. Your child will work with children who are at the same reading level as him or her. Children will move to a different group if they are making faster progress than the others. Your child will have one-to-one support if we think he or she needs some extra help to keep up.

We also use a reading test so that we can make sure that all our children are at the level that they should be for their age compared to all the children across the country.

The government asks us to do a phonics check of all the Year 1 children during the Summer term. Our children in year 2 will be doing the phonics check during the Autumn term this year due to the impact of Covid last year. The phonic check gives us extra information about their progress. We will talk to you about how well your child has done, and especially if we have any worries at all.

How long will it take to learn to read well?

By the end of Year 2, your child should be able to read aloud books that are at the right level for his or her age. In Year 3 we concentrate more on helping children to understand what they are reading, although this work begins very early on. This happens when the teacher reads to the children and also when the children read their own story book.

What can I do to help? Is there anything that I shouldn't do?

Your child will bring different sorts of books home from school. It helps if you know whether this is a book that your child can read on their own or whether this is a book that you should read *to* them. The teacher will have explained which is which. *Please* trust your child's teacher to choose the book(s) that will help your child the most.

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Help your child to sound out the letters in words and then to 'push' the sounds together to make a whole word. Try not to refer to the letters by their names. Help your child to focus on the sounds. I will send a link via ClassDojo so you can hear how to say the sounds correctly.

Sometimes your child might bring home a picture book that they know well. Please don't say, 'This is too easy.' Instead, encourage your child to tell you the story out loud; ask them questions about things that happen or what they think about some of the characters in the story.

We know parents and carers are very busy people. But if you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps him or her to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family. You can find out about good stories to read to your child here: <https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Does it matter if my child misses a lesson or two?

It matters a lot if your child misses school. The way we teach children to read is very well organised, so even one missed lesson means that your child has not learnt something that they need to know to be a good reader.

What if he or she finds it difficult to learn to read?

We want children to learn to read, however long it takes us to teach them. We will find out very quickly if your child is finding reading difficult. First, we move children to a different group, so that we can make sure that they have learnt what they need to know. If they still struggle, we give them extra time with an adult, on their own. These adults are specially trained to support these children. Your child will still be in the same group with the other children and won't miss out on any of the class lessons. Some children take a bit longer to learn to put sounds together to read a word, e.g. c-a-t to make the word 'cat'. If we have any serious worries about your child's reading, we will talk to you about this.

My child has difficulty pronouncing some sounds. Will this stop him learning to read through phonics?

This isn't a problem for learning to read as long as we know what sound the child is trying to say. This is not something to worry about. Many children have a few sounds that they can hear clearly but find it difficult to say, particularly the l-sound, r-sound, w-sound, th-sound, s-sound, sh-sound and j-sound. Often they say a t-sound for the c-sound; "tttssh" for the s-sound; "w" for the r-sound and "r" for the l-sound. You can help your child by encouraging him or her to look at your mouth when you say the sound. They can easily learn to read, even if they find one or two sounds difficult to say.

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