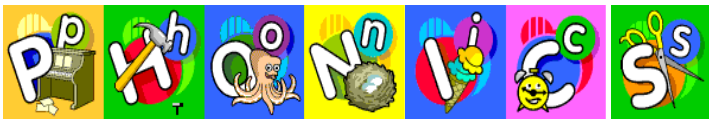




St Anne's
Catholic
Primary
School



Phonics At Home: Reception

A quick guide to how your child is learning to read and write in Reception and what you can do to help at home.





Dear parents and carers,

children in Reception have a phonics session on a daily basis. These are brief, fun activities that aim to equip children with the basic skills required to read and write independently.

This booklet should give you a bit more information about how we teach phonics to Reception children, as well as some hints and ideas for how you can help your child at home. Please note, this is a brief overview for your information rather than a compulsory home-learning programme. It is designed simply to involve everyone at home with what we are doing in the classroom and to enable you to continue your child's learning in the home environment if you would like to.

Above all, it should be fun, so we hope that you enjoy it too!

Please don't hesitate to ask any of us if you have any further questions.

The Reception team.

Phonics: What do we do?



Read Write Inc.

We teach children to recognise **phonemes** (sounds) and **graphemes** (letter or group of letters that represents a sound).

For example, the phoneme (sound) /e/ is a short sound, pronounced as in elephant. The grapheme (group of letters) /ea/ is a separate sound (phoneme) which is pronounced in words such as **easy**, **each** and **read**.



The Phonics Curriculum

We are following the *Read Write Inc. phonics programme*. Our daily phonics sessions develop the skills of **blending** (merging sounds together to make whole words) and **segmenting** (breaking whole words down into individual sounds to read unknown words). We are learning a set of 3 letters and a few high frequency and 'tricky' words every week. We will continue to revisit letters and sounds to cement the particularly difficult sounds, and support children's fluency in reading as they progress.





What you can do at home

There are plenty of fun things you can do at home to support your child's recognition of letters and their sounds.

Recognising Sounds

Playing games such as 'I hear with my little ear, something beginning with...!' can really help your child pick out the starting sounds of familiar words.

It is important that sounds practiced in isolation reflect the sounds we hear in whole words. For example, 'p' rather than 'puh' and 'rrr' not 'ruh'.

Rhyming songs & games

Playing with word sounds and singing nursery rhymes and rhyming songs really helps your child to hear the different sounds in words.

Recognising Letters

Handy hints for recognising letters:

- Play 'I Spy' with printed materials such as books, comics, magazines etc.
- When you are out and about encourage your child to pick out letters/sounds that they know from signs, place names, menus, car number plates etc.



Writing at home

Giving your child opportunities to write at home will help to reinforce their learning in the classroom. Here are some simple things that you can do to support your child's writing:

- Ask your child help you to write shopping lists or messages.
- Encourage them to write their name on any work that they do.
- To develop their confidence in writing use whiteboards or magnetic letters which can easily be erased if they make a mistake.
- Make cards or address envelopes to post to family or friends and help your child to write messages or an address
- Children LOVE post-it notes. If you leave some around the house you will soon find little messages stuck all over the place.
- Encourage your child to write labels or captions with pictures that they draw. You can support this by writing in dots or yellow highlighter for them to trace over, which in turn builds their confidence.
- Magnetic letters on the fridge, radiator or baking sheet can really encourage your child to experiment with letter arrangement. (The Works have lowercase magnetic letters for 99p)



Handwriting

It is really important that children begin to form letters correctly as soon as they start writing. There are lots of ways to improve confidence and work on handwriting at home.



Photocopy or laminate the letter formation sheets and encourage your child to practise regularly.

Practice gross motor formation (large scale) to build confidence in letter formation. Try using big paint brushes and



Sprinkle a fine layer of sand, rice or flour on to a tray and have your child form letters or words using their fingers.

water with a splash of food colouring on the wall or floor. Or write letters in the air with ribbons on sticks.

Support your child to write using pre-cursive letters which always begin at the bottom, with a WHOOSH! Only use capitals for beginning sentences and writing names.

Fine motor control

Building up strength in little fingers can be developed using fun daily activities: cotton bud painting, Lego building and creating with Playdough.

All mark-making, or 'pretend' writing, should be encouraged—it is a great way of building confidence and practicing holding a pencil.



Pre-cursive Letter Formation

a b c d e

f g h i j

k l m n o

p q r s t

u v w x y

z

Remember: All of these letters begin at the bottom with a WHOOSH!



Reading

Enjoying books and looking at print is an essential part of the reading process, even if your child is not yet reading whole words. See which sounds that they can recognise on a page, and which sounds that key words begin with. Ask them to tell you what is happening in the pictures.

Engaging your child in the whole book really supports their reading fluency and comprehension, as well as their confidence when they do start to read themselves.

As your child begins to read whole words, unfamiliar words can appear daunting and they may not attempt to read it. By encouraging your child to take the word sound by sound then blend these together, will help them build confidence to read independently.



Reading Activities

Reading regularly to your child and engaging them in stories helps with understanding and purpose. Try using puppets or teddies to act out the story and talk about what happens next.

Read, Write Inc. actions

Encourage your child to recall the picture or use the actions to help them remember the letter sounds. If your child needs prompting when reading a sound, reminding them of the picture or showing them the action may help to remind them of the sound and build their independence.



Glossary of Terms

Phoneme—any sound made by a letter or combination of letters.

Grapheme—a symbol that represents a letter or sound.

Blending—putting sounds together to read a word

Segmenting—breaking up words or sounding out a word to spell / write it.

High frequency words—any word that children are encouraged to recognise by sight in order to aid reading fluency.

Tricky words—words that cannot be sounded out (i.e. they are not phonetic e.g. you).

Gross/Fine motor control—large/small scale movements.

CVC words—words made up of a consonant-vowel-consonant (e.g. 'cat', 'pot', 'duck')

Digraphs—where 2 or 3 letters make 1 sound (e.g. /sh/, /ng/, /oi/, /igh/). We say that digraphs are special friends.

Caption- a group of words that are not a complete sentence (e.g. 'tools in a shed'). These usually go with pictures.

Seesaw

Your child's Seesaw page will be the place to find activities that support correct letter formation and other literacy homework tasks.

Smartphone Apps

There are plenty of Apps that can be downloaded to help with handwriting and word-building that increase confidence and make practice fun! For example:

Letterjoin

iWriteWords

PocketPhonics

Mr Thorne Does Phonics

Some Useful Websites

For Parents

For information, resources and printable games and sheets:

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents-copy-2/>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

<https://www.farnhamprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/rwi-set-1-board-games-word-lotto.pdf>

For Children

For games to help with letter recognition, rhyme, initial sounds and word building:

Class Seesaw page

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007t298>

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html

There are also plenty of fun stories and songs on YouTube.

For example:

Alphablocks

Tricky words

Alphabet songs

Jack Hartman phonic songs for kids

Phonics songs



