

The Valley Primary School

Reading at Home (Guidance)

At The Valley Primary School we use a range of methods to teach your child to read. The main method is through 'synthetic phonics', this means by teaching the letter sounds. To do with we use a programme called 'Read, Write Inc' by Ruth Miskin.

After the children have learnt the straight forward letter-sound relationships *i.e.* 'a' for *apple*, 's' for *sun*, they are then taught the more complex ones, *e.g.* *that the 'igh' sound as in high can also be written as tried, cry and nine.*

Sounds are not taught in alphabetical order, instead they are taught in the order best suited to begin blending sounds for reading. Please note some sounds are pronounced differently according to regional accent.

The sounds are taught in the following order:

Set 1	s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l j v w x y z zz qu ch sh th ng nk
Set 2	ay ee igh oa o oar or ur ow oi ear air ure er
Set 3	ai oy wh a-e ou ir ie ue ew i-e ph e-e ea aw oe o-e au u-e and alternative spellings

The children are taught:

Green word -these are decodable words which your child can segment (sound out). Encourage your child to 'Fred talk'/sound out each letter sound (s-a-t), then blend the sounds together to say the word (sat).

Red word - these are tricky words which can't be segmented such as my, I, the. We introduce these to the children by saying '*Fred can't red*'. Your child just needs to learn these words by sight.

Reading Books

Reading books are matched to the child's phonics ability (*not necessarily their chronological age*), this will take into account:

- The stage your child is currently working at in phonics (which set of sounds they are on)
- Their ability to decode common words (green words)
- Their ability to recognise tricky (red) words
- Their ability to talk about the books and stories which they read and listen too
- Their ability to answer questions/ find information within the text
- Their ability to explain the meaning of words
- Their concentration levels

What books will my child bring home?

Reading Scheme Books

Each child will have a reading book from the Collins Big Cat Reading Scheme.

It is important that your child practises this book at home several times and is able to answer questions/ talk about the text in some detail.

Children will share this book with a member of school staff at least one a week. Providing staff feel your child is ready to move on a new book will be sent home.

Gold Star Books

Children working on bands Pink to Lime will also be given an additional book to bring home, these will be labelled with a Gold Star. These books will enable your child to build their fluency and comprehension skills.

Beyond Lime

Children who are reading beyond Lime band will have the opportunity to visit the mobile library which comes to the village every fortnight.

Reading Other Materials

We strongly encourage all our children to read texts in addition to the books we send home.

We encourage children to read a wide range of materials including books, magazines/ comics, non-fiction texts, instruction cards in games, recipes, newspaper, online materials such as e-books.

Local libraries can provide a wide range of reading materials at no cost.

Children with additional needs

Some children may require additional support with their reading/phonics skills. This will be addressed through a range of strategies/ interventions deemed appropriate by school staff.

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.

Dr Seuss