



Literacy – learning to read and write

Reading

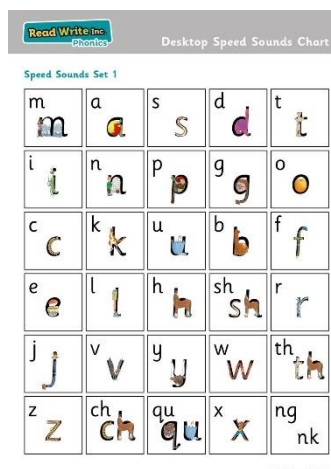
What we do



- Motivate the children and create a positive learning environment
- Create a language rich environment
- Enjoy books together
- Provide opportunities to choose and read books alone
- Teach Phonics and how to apply these skills to reading and writing

Our Phonics Lessons

In Early Years phonics is taught through the Read Write Inc. program developed by Ruth Miskin. Read Write Inc. Phonics is a comprehensive literacy program designed to get all infants reading and writing quickly. This involves fun and active ways of learning letter sounds through pictures, rhymes and actions, which help children recognise and begin to read words. Your children will take part in 20- 45-minute daily lessons. Importantly, phonics is not taught in isolation. Daily reading is based around texts that match the sounds which have been taught. The ‘three reads’ approach ensures every child gains accuracy, fluency and a good understanding of the text. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>



Your children will learn one sound a day, starting with single letter sounds, we will move on to digraphs which we call ‘special friends’ (two letters that make one sound for example – ch, sh, th....) and trigraphs (three letters that make one sound for example igh) later in the year. During these lessons your children will learn to blend and start to develop fluency.

Please note:

- It is important that when we pronounce these sounds we are careful not to add an extra vowel. For example, it is ‘t’ not ‘tuh’. Your children may well correct you on this but if in doubt, please do ask or use the video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q>
- Letter formation is taught alongside the sounds but will be revisited frequently throughout the year as many are not ready to write when they first come to school.

What you can do

- Most importantly, enjoy books with your children
- Talk about the books that you read together
- Encourage self-belief by praising effort
- Read bedtime stories to your children
- When your child is able to recognise a few letters or even words, see if they can spot them in the books that you read with them/ on signs and posters / on menus and birthday cards.....
- Let your child see that you read

Writing

What we do



- Motivate children to be writers
- Provide many different activities to help their fine and gross motor skills to develop
- Help child to find suitable pencil grip and to form letters correctly
- Encourage children to write down the sounds they can hear in words. These are often the first and last sounds initially
- Provide lots of opportunity to write independently. For example, this might be in the role play areas or when creating a label for a model they have made....



What you can do

- Give opportunities to write
- Encourage use use of letter sounds learnt but do not worry about spelling at this stage
- Value your child's efforts
- Help to develop their fine motor skills with activities other than writing eg. playing with construction toys like lego and duplo, pegging clothes or cards onto a 'washing line' made of string, squeezing water from a sponge, playing with plasticene.....
- When you are writing, model correct pencil grip and letter formation
- Have fun with all sorts of paper, pens, paints, chalk and crayons.



Maths – Numbers and so much more!



Maths goes on in school (and most likely at home) every day and all the time. Numbers are important but there are so many other things to learn too! There are two main areas in the EYFS curriculum:

- Number
- Shape, Space and Measure

What we do

- Use White Rose Maths to support planning
- Follow the Maths Mastery approach to allow children to have a deeper understanding before moving on to more complex topics
- Provide lots of practical activities and challenges
- Count in sequence daily with the children
- Find numbers on a numberline
- Play many different number games
- Introduce and reinforce the language used in Maths.before / after / more / less / difference / how many altogether / in front of / how much more / fewest / taller / shorter / opposite / sides / lightest / change / total / most popular / 1 more than / greater than / half past....the list is very long!
- Encourage the children to explain what they have found out, why something happens or what they have noticed.
- Revisit the various areas of learning throughout the year, gradually reinforcing each child's understanding and providing plenty of challenges as and when the child is ready.



topics

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Match and sort Make comparisons Explore pattern	Numbers – counting and recognition Measure – Size, weight and capacity Calculations 3D shape Time	Numbers – counting and recognition Calculations Doubling, halving and sharing Position and distance Consolidation

- Encourage the children to explore, create and repair patterns
- Measure and compare using standard and non-standard units of measure... Standard units of measure are centimetres, litres, kilograms, minutes etc..... Non-standard units are measurements like spoonfuls, cubes, footprints, pieces of pasta etc.



Please note

You will not see much evidence of Maths in their books at this stage. This does not mean that they are not doing Maths in school...It just means that the majority of their learning is taking place through practical activities and games. The children will look like they are playing....they will usually feel like they are playing.....but they are in fact learning a huge amount too!

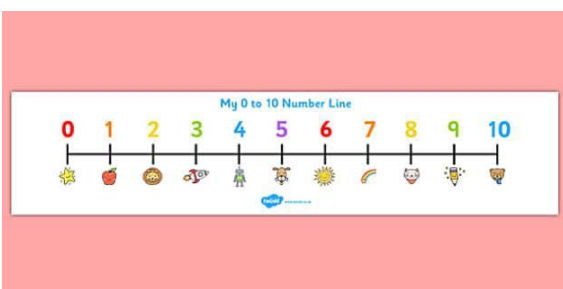
Many people think that as soon as their child counts to 10, it is time to start working with bigger numbers. We do not have to go further than 10 to challenge them. In fact, the deeper their understanding of the basics, the greater their success later on.

School equipment your child might mention (There is no need to have this at home but just in case you are wondering what we are talking about! ...)



Beebots – small programmable toys. Good for teaching simple programming and directional vocabulary.

Numicon – moulded plastic shapes which represent numbers. Good for performing simple calculations and for ordering numbers.



Numberlines – good for number recognition and formation.

What you can doSee separate handout for ideas....Most importantly have fun!
Remember there is no need to have cubes for counting.... any small objects such as pebbles or toy cars are just as good!