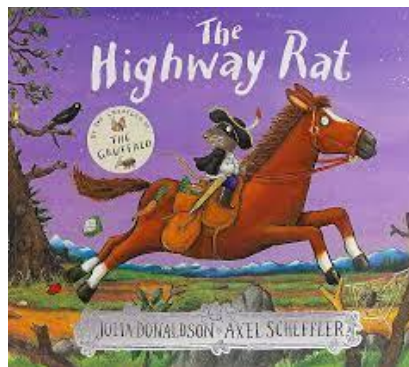


Key Points from the Reading and Phonics meeting for parents

General Information

- Our phonics scheme is Phonics Finch which has been designed by staff, at school.
- When starting school, children do not learn letters in the order of the alphabet. Rather they start with sounds so that they can quickly build words. For example, the first six sounds are: s a t p i n. This enables children to quickly start blending sounds to read words e.g. in, it, at, pin, pan, nip, tin, tap etc.
- When helping children to read and say sounds at home, we ask that you use 'pure' sounds as this is how they are modelled in school. Please click on the video link in the phonics section of the school website, to see how to pronounce each sound. Alternatively, staff are always available before and after school to clarify any queries you may have.
- Blending sounds to read words is really tricky to begin with! You may find that when children have a go, sounding out the letters 'c a t' comes out as 'tree!' Persevere, it will come with time and practice and is normal!
- Children will be given a reading book to take home that matches the sounds that they have covered in school. These books should be read several times before changing. Please help your child to change their book, by helping them to put it into the box as they enter school. If it is not ready for changing, please keep it in their school bag until they are ready. Thank you.

The Importance of reading for pleasure and breath.



The school reading book is to help children learn and practise sounds and blending to kick start their reading journey. However, reading for pleasure and breath is so important to foster a life-long love of reading. Please therefore give great importance to reading stories to children, as often as possible.

At school, we focus on a different story/text each week. The first read through is for pleasure. Subsequent read throughs provide opportunities to discuss and gain new vocabulary, comprehension skills and later we might discuss how characters might be feeling and why, or sequencing events in

the story. We also run a class library so that children may choose to take home a reading book for pleasure, which can be exchanged for a new book on a weekly basis.

Tips when reading the school reading book to match phonics sounds

- Try to build a routine that works for your family, for reading. The more time you commit to this, the better progress your child will make, opening up all areas of the curriculum to them. Did you know that reading for pleasure is linked to greater well-being in children?
- Give lots of praise and encouragement. Particularly at the start when only a few sounds are available in the books, they can appear rather dull! Encourage by using phrases such as "I'm so excited to read this book with you today. You make me so proud when I hear you!"
- Make reading an inviting activity. Turn on a lamp. Make a hot chocolate. Cuddle up on the sofa together, with no distractions such as tv.
- When introducing a new title, if children have to sound out every word during the first read through, it can be very taxing and may put them off. The book will make no sense to them as all the efforts are going into blending. You can make this more manageable by:
 - *The adult could read the decodable book to the child. Discuss what is happening. Make links to the illustrations.
 - *Next, the adult could read the story and omit the last word on each page for the child to read.
 - *Then, you might alternate. The adult reads a page, the child reads a page. Help them to sound out and recognise letters and words.
 - *Finally, the child should read all the pages. Give lots of praise.
 - *Once fluent, it's time to change.

Other ideas to aid reading:

Audio books,

Foam letters in the bath to make words during bath time.

Karaoke!

CBeebies story time/ clips online of stories being read.

Read signs when out and about e.g. road signs.

Phonics games

Apps e.g. 'Teach my monster to read' or 'Reading eggs'.

Visit the library in Clitheroe to choose books.

Subtitles on the TV.

Magazines e.g. Alphablocks magazine or any children's magazines.

