

Important: Hillside Reading Scheme

The reading scheme has changed. The list below illustrates the new banded reading order and expected age range.

Book Band Colour	Reading Age
Lilac	Foundation Stage
Pink	
Red	
Yellow	
Light Blue	KS1
Green	
Orange	
Turquoise	
Purple	
Gold	
White	KS2
Lime	
Brown	
Grey	
Dark Blue	
Maroon	

Children in the Foundation Stage will begin by reading picture books, a perfect springboard for rich conversations about a variety of topics. Your child will be learning to read using phonics and the lilac and pink book bands are perfect for children taking their first steps in reading. Your children will enjoy exploring the humorous illustrations and familiar situations. As your child's phonics begins to develop they will be given two books to read. One will be from the reading scheme and the other will require them to apply the phonics sounds they have learnt in lesson.

Hillside Reading Expectations at home:

- Children should read or share a book with an adult for at least 10 minutes.
- When your child reads at home, please sign their reading record and write any necessary comments.
- In the foundation stage some children are expected to read both their decodable and reading scheme texts three times per week. [Some children may only have one text to begin with]
- Please ensure children have their reading book and reading diary in school every day as this will be monitored and rewarded.
- Don't forget to focus upon basic comprehension skills- question your child about what they have read.

If you would like to discuss any of the information included in this leaflet or how to help your child progress with their reading then please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Wainwright or your child's class teacher.

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HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Developing the Individual"

Reading at Hillside



This leaflet contains information about:

- ⇒ ***Learning to read using Phonics***
- ⇒ ***Tips for encouraging reading***
- ⇒ ***Expectations for reading***

Learning to Read Using Phonics

Phonics is the tool used in schools to teach children to read and spell. Phonics is recommended as the first strategy that children should be taught in helping them learn to read.

So, what exactly is phonics? Words are made up from small units of sound called phonemes. Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word. This helps children to learn to read words and to spell words.

In phonics lessons children are taught three main things: They are taught GPCs. This stands for grapheme phoneme correspondences. This simply means that they are taught all the phonemes in the English language and ways of writing them down. Secondly, children are taught to be able to blend. This is when children say the sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sounds together until they can hear what the word is. This skill is vital in learning to read. Finally, children are also taught to segment. This is the opposite of blending. Children are able to say a word and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up. This skill is vital in being able to spell words.

Useful Websites:

For 100's of free books to read online visit

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

For more phonics information and games visit

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

For free phonics resources visit

www.letters-and-sounds.co.uk

Top Tips for Encouraging Reading

As parents you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read. Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.

1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

2. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant.

3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.

4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

5. Success is the key

Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Remember. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.



6. Visit the Library

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly.

7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.

8. Communicate

Your child's reading diary from school is very important. Try to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

9. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

10. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials e.g. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, and information books.