

Dear Parents,

From the moment your children were born they began their reading journey, developing all the foundation skills that are key in becoming a confident reader with a love for stories. Being a good listener, enjoying rhythm, music and rhyme, and listening and joining in at story time are all important skills when it comes to reading. We love story time here at Leighswood, and we know your children do too. We encourage you to share stories with your children as much as possible to continue to nurture their love of books and get them excited to learn to read.

Our aim for the end of Reception is for children to secure the **Early Learning Goals**, set out on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. In Literacy these are :

Writing - Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. They also write some irregular common words. They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.

Reading - Children read and understand simple sentences. They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

At Leighswood we combine a number of approaches when teaching our children to read and write. Our most structured approach includes daily, short, focused, phonics lessons using the fun, fast paced scheme Read, Write, Inc. (RWI)



How and what do the children learn in RWI

READING:

Your child will

- ✚ Learn the 44 pure sounds and their corresponding letters/letter groups
- ✚ Learn to read words by blending sounds e.g. the sounds c,a,t blend to read cat.
- ✚ Read stories featuring words they have learnt to sound out
- ✚ Show that they understand the stories through discussion and answering questions

WRITING:

Your child will

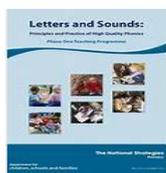
- ✚ Learn to write the letters/letter groups which represent the 44 sounds
- ✚ Write words, simple phrases and sentences
- ✚ Compose stories

TALKING:

Your child will work in pairs to

- ✚ Answer every question with their partner
- ✚ Practise every activity with their partner
- ✚ Take turns talking to each other

In addition to this we use aspects of Story Time Phonics, where we link sounds learnt to real stories by our favourite authors such as Nick Sharratt and Michael Rosen.



We also use games taken from Letters and Sounds to practice listening, reading and writing skills and link them to our learning throughout our wider curriculum. This includes rhyming games such as silly soup, and the robot game, breaking words into the sounds for children to guess.

We will share some of these games with you on Class Dojo.

How to help at home

SHARE STORIES

- Read as many stories to your child as you can. Talk about the stories. Explain the meaning of new words. Most importantly though, show the fun that can be gained by listening to/sharing stories.
- Share your child's own books, school books, library books and e-books on the internet.
- Your child will have a Buzz Book each week to share with you at home. These are stories we share in school as well that we want our children to become really familiar with, so that they know the characters, the story line, and the environments the story takes place in.



LEARN NEW SOUNDS

- Groups of letters will be sent home with your child as they are learned in school. Videos will be uploaded onto Class Dojo each week to help you use them at home and re watch at your convenience.
When learning sounds, be sure to pronounce them correctly! Try to avoid saying 'uh' after each one! This helps your child blend the sounds into words more easily. If you are unsure a video will be uploaded to Dojo, of all the Set 1 sounds.
- Help your children to read and make simple words using the small letters that they have been given, eg, m, a, t mat . Again, when children are ready to begin this we will share a video to Class Dojo.
- Any learning sent home to practice does not need to come back to school and is for your use at home.

HOME READING BOOKS

Once starting to read words, your child will also start to bring simple phonic books home which they can begin to read themselves. This is something to really celebrate and we don't want it to feel like a chore. Choose a time when your child is focussed and energised and make it fun and exciting. Perhaps they could read the odd word to start with, building up to a whole page.

Could you take it in turns to read a page each and discuss what might be happening by looking at the pictures before attempting the text. Learning to read is tricky so let's help our children to achieve and feel proud.



Please remember that 'a little and often' is the best way to approach reading activities at home... and make it exciting!

If you have access to the internet, there are lots of stories and fun activities for your child on the free web site 'Oxford Owl' <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/> There is also information for parents about helping your child to read.

Please contact your child's class teacher on Class Dojo if you have any questions or queries and they will be happy to help.