

Early Reading in EYFS

At school, children begin to learn to read and write through the teaching of phonics. We use Read Write Inc at Old Clee Primary Academy. Phonics matches the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. As you know, the English language can be very tricky and one sound can be spelt in more than one way e.g. the sound k can be spelled as c, k, ck or ch.



Types of books



Sharing a picture book with children is a fantastic way to start conversations about both fiction (made up) and non-fiction (real life) books. At this stage, children can learn how to look after books, turn take and get into a routine of enjoying a book with an adult. Children will begin to read decodable books at school. These books allow children to practice their newly acquired phonic skills.

Read together every day

Even if children cannot read yet, they really do enjoy listening to stories, poems and factual books. This is a great time for children to ask questions, discuss pictures and share their thoughts and ideas with you.



Before you start to read, have a chat



Before you have turned to the first page, have a chat. By talking about the title, the pictures and the information on the cover (front and back) children begin to develop both questioning and predicting skills. If the chosen book is an old favourite, discuss what picture could go on the front cover or ask for a summary of the main events.

Make reading exciting

Children love to hear adults reading in character. Changing your accent, volume and expression really engages children and keeps them clinging on to your every word. Exaggerate moments when the story is building up, change your voice to a whisper when characters are creeping around. Once children are familiar with the book, have them join in when they can or encourage them to copy your words and your voice.



Ask each other questions



Once you come to the end of the book, talk about what you have just read. Ask a range of questions like: *What did you like best? Where did the children go? Who played on the swing?* Have children ask you questions, this will allow you to find out if they have understood the information and they will enjoy trying to catch you out!

Remember that discussion can be done at any point during the book, not just at the end.

Retell events

Being able to retell a story in the correct order is a really important reading skill. This skill can be developed by talking about events which have happened during the day or talking about a TV programme. Encourage sequencing by asking: *What happened first? What next?*

