



Finlay School: Ready to Read!



We would like to keep you up to date with how we teach reading at Finlay Community School.....

Early Years

Children are taught to read through the phonics approach in the EYFS. They start off by learning all the letter sounds and names. This then leads into sounding out and blending simple words. Alongside this they are taught to read high frequency words (words that cannot be sounded out). From this, children are then taught to read simple sentences that progress to more challenging ones.

To support this process we follow the Read Write Inc scheme which places an emphasis on the teaching of reading and writing at the same time. Your child will bring home reading books to practise these early reading skills, starting with picture books.

Ways you can support early reading at home:

Listening Games

Developing good listening skills helps to improve your child's reading skills too. Noting sounds in the home (a ticking clock, the microwave ping) or on a walk (bird song, the whoosh of a train), as well as more sophisticated letter sound games like sound lotto, will help your child to hear the sounds that words make.

I Spy

Play this game as much as possible with your children at home. This will encourage them to understand the beginning sound for individual words.

Letter Hunts

You could be on the bus, walking to the shop, looking at logos on your clothes or even watching TV. Point out the letters and say the sound of them.

What's in the box...?

If you don't have lots of objects at home to play sound games with, then don't worry. You can play the imaginary game that we play at school, called 'What's in the box'? You just pretend that you have a box with lots of objects in and you can be as creative as you like. You just say... 'In my box today I have a d o g' (in a robot voice) your child then has to blend the sounds together to make the word. If your child struggles with this at first then you can

give them a clue, this will encourage positivity and allow them to achieve.

Clap and Chunk

Clapping out syllables or chunks in words and names can help with reading longer words: Di-no-saur! Cho-co-late! Or point out that some words are made up of two words, so wind and then mill makes windmill.

Read, Read, Read

It's really important to read as much as possible with your child. Read the books that come home from school, borrow library books, buy books and magazines. Read signs and notices, and find interesting websites to read. And keep reading together at bedtime too!

Further Reading in School

All children are reading every day, with an adult as part of a group. In this group the children will be taught the appropriate skills needed to read and understand a variety of texts. Teaching reading this way will support children's progress and ensure all children are having quality input from an adult daily. These daily reading sessions will be recorded in the teacher's records in class not their home reading record, so if you want to know your child's progress with reading skills, their teacher will be happy to share this with you.

Home Reading Books

All children should have a home reading book which should be used at home to practise the skills they have been taught. They will change this at least once a week with a member of staff or, if required more often, they can change this as often as they like by visiting the library at the end of the day Monday, Wednesday, Friday, or there is a small selection of books in each class.

When you are reading with your child at home please record this in their home reading record.

Reading Certificates

All reading certificates are awarded in celebration assembly on a Friday. Reading certificates are awarded for the number of times a child reads at home. All of this information is gathered from the child's reading record.

Library

The library is now situated in the hub and can be entered from the Key Stage One playground. The library will be open at the end of the day, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You can visit the library with your child so they can change their home reading book or just

choose a library book. The library books are colour coded to match the reading book levels. Attached is a colour comparison chart to help. There will be a member of staff in the library, so if you require any help please ask. In addition to this, your child will have the opportunity to visit the library weekly with their class.

Reading Volunteers

We have a team of volunteers who come in to read with some children throughout the week. These reading sessions are recorded in your child's reading record. If you would be interested in volunteering please speak to Michelle Bryce, more helpers would be greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask your class teacher.