

Welcome to Robin Class!

This is your new Home School Link Book. Reading in Robin Class is your child's first experience of formal reading. This book is designed to be used as a communication link between home and school to keep track of your child's reading and the progress they are making. Reading needs to be a fun and enjoyable experience for your child in order to encourage a life-long love of reading which begins in their first year of school.

In Robin Class we will immerse the children in reading through stories and role play. Each week we will focus on a different story during our whole class teaching, and children will then participate in a variety of activities based around that story to support their communication and language skills. Phonics is also taught daily for around 20 minutes.

Alongside this, your child will participate in a small 'guided reading group' every week. These groups allow us to monitor your child's progress in their reading. To begin with, your child will bring home a familiar story book or picture book to share with you at home, and will then start to bring home books which will be linked to their phonics phase. Although your child will have this book for one whole week, you and your child are welcome to select another book from our 'free choice' box whenever you like, but please ensure it is the same colour band as the one given to your child in their guided reading group, Bug club books will also become available for your child to enjoy using the internet as we progress through the year.

We encourage you to try and read once a day with your child at home to support the work done in school. Please record in this book any time your child shares their school reading book, practices their Phonics or indeed practices their reading in any other way at home. Remember, anybody can share a story with your child - parents, grandparents, siblings etc. Your child might also like to record their thoughts on the book or what they think they have done well, too!

Remember, reading should be a fun and enjoyable shared experience between school, home and child!

Thank you for your support,
Mrs Jury.



What is Phonics?

Phonics is recommended as the first strategy that children should be taught in developing early reading and writing skills. Sometimes referred to as 'Letters and Sounds', phonics is a systematic approach to teaching reading and writing where children are taught the relationships between the sounds in our language and the letters used to represent these sounds. Recognising these links is known as 'segmenting'. Once children have secured this knowledge, they can then begin to put these sounds together and have a go confidently at reading and writing words. This is known as 'blending'.

All children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One will receive daily, high quality phonics teaching. Focused phonics sessions will typically take twenty minutes every day and are made up of songs, games and actions so that children can effectively segment and blend words to support their reading and writing development. Phonics teaching is broken down into phases. Phases One, Two and Three are taught progressively in Reception. Phase One focuses on sound recognition, Phase Two focuses on recognising individual sounds (phonemes i.e. s) and Phase Three moves onto recognising where two letters make one sound (digraphs i.e. 'ch'). It is expected that by the end of their Reception year, most children will be able to read and write all of the Phase Two and Three sounds. Some children will progress onto Phase Four towards the end of the year and will begin to be taught the sounds and words in this phase in order to prepare them for Year One.

It is essential that children practice sounds and words from the phonics phase they are on as often as possible. This will make a huge difference to their progress in both reading and writing if you can make time to practice with your child at home. Reading books sent home with your child will give you lots of information about how the contents of the book allows children to practice and apply their phonics.

If you would like more information on the teaching of phonics, this website is really useful. It also has lots of games and activities which your child can access to support their understanding at home for free!

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/WhatIsPhonics.htm>

Phase Two

In this phase, children will learn to read and write the following phonemes (sounds) in this order:

Set 1: s a t p

Set 2: i n m d

Set 3: g o c k

Set 4: ck e u r

Set 5: h b f ff l ll s ss

High Frequency Words and Tricky Words

High frequency words are very common words that your child will need to be able to read linked to each phonic phase. They should be able to use their segmenting and blending skills to read and write these words.

The words in red are words we call 'tricky words', as they cannot be sounded out. Children will not be able to use the skills of segmenting and blending to decode these words; they just need to learn them! Therefore, children need to be able to recognise these words quickly on sight and know that they cannot attempt to sound them out.

a	an	as	at	if	in
is	it	of	off	on	can
dad	had	back	and	get	big
him	his	not	got	up	mum
but					
the	to	I	no	go	into

Phase Three

By the end of this phase, children will know all of the phonemes (sounds) they need to be able to read or write any word phonetically. They will learn the following phonemes in this order:

Set 6: j v w x

Set 7: y z zz qu

Children will then move on to learning digraphs (two letters which together make one sound) and trigraphs (three letters which together make one sound).

ch chip	ar farm
sh shop	or fork
th then	er corner
ng ring	ur hurt
ai rain	ow cow
ee feet	oi coin
igh night	ear dear
oa boat	air fair
oo book	ure sure

High Frequency Words and Tricky Words

will	that	this	then	them	with
see	for	now	down	look	too
he	she	we	be	me	was
you	they	all	are	my	her

Phase Four

Phase Four is a much shorter phase than the previous phases. Its purpose is to reinforce and allow children to practice using the phonemes (sounds) they already know in their reading and in spelling words containing adjacent consonants (ie. frog) and polysyllabic words (i.e. windmill).

Children will need to read and write words such as the following:

Went	Tuft	Champ	Roast	Children
Best	Golf	Chest	Stand	Helpdesk
Gust	Damp	Theft	Crust	Sandpit
Step	Hand	Tenth	North	Shampoo
Tent	Lost	Chimp	Crunch	Windmill
Belt	Next	Shelf	Drench	Giftbox
Fond	Jump	Shift	Crisp	Lunchbox
Lift	Gasp	Joint	Blast	Pondweed
Tilt	Send	Boost	Grasp	Sandwich
Milk	Sent	Paint	Spend	Desktop
Frog	Swim	Bench	Shrimp	Driftwood

High Frequency Words and Tricky Words

went	it's	from	children	just	help
said	have	like	so	do	some
come	where	there	little	one	when
what	out	people			