



A Parent's guide to helping their child learn to read at Bude Primary Academy

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.



How will my child be taught to read?

We start by teaching phonics to the children in the Reception class. This means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters. Ask them to show you what these are.

The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'.

The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. They start thinking that they *can* read, and this does wonders for their confidence.

The teachers read to the children, too, so the children get to know all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps their writing.

How will I know how well my child is doing?

We will always let you know how well your child is doing.

We use various ways to find out how the children are getting on in reading. We use the information to decide what reading group they should be in. Your child will work with children who are at the same reading level as him or her. Children will move to a different group if they are making faster progress than the others. Your child will have one-to-one support if we think he or she needs some extra help to keep up.

We also use a reading test so that we can make sure that all our children are at the level that they should be for their age compared to all the children across the country.

In the summer term, the government asks us to do a phonics check of all the Year 1 children. That gives us extra information about their progress. We will talk to you about how well your child has done, and especially if we have any worries at all.

How long will it take to learn to read well?

By the end of Year 2, your child should be able to read aloud books that are at the right level for his or her age. In Year 3 we concentrate more on helping children to understand what they are reading, although this work begins very early on. This happens when the teacher reads to the children and also when the children read their own story book.

How do I know the teaching will be good?

All the staff have been trained to teach reading in the way we do it in this school. We believe that it is very important that all the teachers and teaching assistants work in the same way. Senior teachers watch other teachers teaching to make sure that the children are learning in the way we want them to learn.

If you are worried about the teaching or you have any questions, please come to school and talk to us.

How can I help my child at home?

Your child will bring home a special reading book that has been chosen because it only contains sounds that they know. You should follow the three read process as documented below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
In school	Your child is given their new RWI reading book in their phonics session.			Child gives back their RWI reading book to their phonics teacher. Child is then given their next book.		
At home	Practise reading 'story green words' and 'red (tricky) words'. 1 st read child is looking for decoding (sounding out words and blending)	Practise reading 'story green words' and 'red (tricky) words'. 2 nd read is listening for fluency. Children should now be able to read without overt sounding out.	3 rd read is for comprehension. After child has read the story the 3 rd time use the questions to talk about at the back of the book.	Practise reading 'story green words' and 'red (tricky) words'. 1 st read child is looking for decoding (sounding out words and blending)	Practise reading 'story green words' and 'red (tricky) words'. 2 nd read is listening for fluency. Children should now be able to read without overt sounding out.	3 rd read is for comprehension. After child has read the story the 3 rd time use the questions to talk about at the back of the book.

In addition to their reading book, your child will also have the opportunity to select a book from our library. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to share their interests with you and to learn lots of new words.

We know parents and carers are very busy people. But if you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps him or her to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family. You can find out about good stories to read to your child here: <https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Does it matter if my child misses a lesson or two?

It matters a lot if your child misses school. The way we teach children to read is very well organised, so even one missed lesson means that your child has not learnt something that they need to know to be a good reader.

What if he or she finds it difficult to learn to read?

We want children to learn to read, however long it takes us to teach them. We will find out very quickly if your child is finding reading difficult. First, we move children to a different group, so that we can make sure that they have learnt what they need to know. If they still struggle, we give them extra time with an adult, on their own. These adults are specially trained to support these children. Your child will still be in the same group with the other children and won't miss out on any of the class lessons.

If we have any serious worries about your child's reading, we will talk to you about this.

Some children take a bit longer to learn to put sounds together to read a word, e.g. c-a-t to make the word 'cat'. At our meeting, we will explain how you can help your child to do this.

Find out more!

You can find out more on the Read,Write, Inc website and access useful home reading resources.

www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/