

Reading

The teaching of reading starts from children's first term in Kerr Mackie through a variety of methods.

Our very youngest children in Nursery are exposed to a rich variety of stories throughout the school day. Children are encouraged to look at and talk about books and stories with each other and with the adults in class and through talk and imaginative play, share stories and create their own. From Reception, children receive daily phonics sessions based on synthetic phonics. Teachers prepare fun and engaging sessions which follow 'Letters and Sounds' and incorporate Jolly Phonics actions and rhymes. There is a clear progression of phonics teaching through Reception and Year 1, starting with single letter sounds and letter formation through to learning different ways of writing the same sound (matching different graphemes to the same phoneme) and learning key tricky words which do not follow phonetic patterns. In Year 1 children take the Phonics Screening check which is administered across the country and is designed to show how well children can use the phonics skills learnt up to this point. It also provides an additional way to identify any additional phonics support that is required for some children as they enter Year 2. Learning then progresses through continued, focused daily activities in Year 2 where children tackle a variety of more complex spelling patterns and conventions. The Phonics Screening check is repeated at the end of Year 2 for those children who did not meet the pass mark. Phonics continues through to Year 3 for children for whom it remains a need.

The learning of phonics as a route to reading is supplemented by dedicated reading time throughout school. In Reception, this takes the form of 1 to 1 reading with an adult at least once a week. This continues in Year 1 with the addition of weekly focused guided reading sessions, where key reading skills can also be taught, in addition to improving fluency of reading. Guided reading sessions continue through Year 2 and KS2 where each session is focused on improving children's reading skills as they transition from learning to read to reading to learn. In guided reading sessions, children will receive dedicated time with an adult, in addition to completing independent activities. If children are identified as requiring additional support in their reading journey, they are able to access a number of different sources of additional provision such as a dedicated Fisher Family Trust intervention programme. As another way of inspiring children in their reading journey, each class has a dedicated story time each day where they are able to listen to high quality texts that may be above their reading ability.

We want to foster a love of reading in our children and parent/carer support with this is invaluable. Each week, children take books home and are encouraged to read with an adult once a day. This continues through school with older children taking responsibility for logging and commenting on their home reading in a reading record which is shared with their class teacher each week.

Throughout school, we use a range of reading resources including Read Write Inc, Oxford Reading Tree, Phonics Songbirds and Project X to provide a rich and varied selection of texts. Children will receive their first home reading book during the first term of Reception with the majority of children reading books with words by the end

of the first term. As children gain confidence in reading, their home reading books will increase in difficulty, with most children becoming free readers (where they are free to choose their own book from a selection of chapter books) by the middle of Year 3.

To support their reading further, each child, from Reception to Year 6, is provided with a password to Reading Eggs, an online reading programme which encourages children to read through online reading games and activities. In addition to using Reading Eggs during reading sessions in school, children are also encouraged to access the resources at home each week and parents and carers can support their child with the activities to further assist their child's progression in reading.

Useful links to support your child's learning

Phonics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE>

A very useful introduction to the pure sounds used to teach synthetic phonics in school.

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

A useful website for games and other resources to support the learning that takes place in school.

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>

A good selection of games that fits in well with the games in 'Letters and Sounds'.

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

Printable resources for each of the 'Letters and Sounds' phonics phases which also links to games aligned with each phase.

Reading

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/reading>

This website offers access to 250 free eBooks, in addition to ideas for games and activities linked to Reading.

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading>

This website provides ideas for books to read, as well as ideas for games and activities.

<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

This website, part of the National Literacy Trust, provides lots of information about how to support your child's reading and literacy skills.