



Notes from Curriculum Evening Thursday 19th September 2019

We teach “pure sounds” and you can look on the Oxford Owl website for more information and examples of how to pronounce these sounds.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading/phonics-made-easy>

Phonics is taught using a combination of the Read, Write Inc synthetic phonics scheme and Letters and Sounds which is a scheme.

Your child will be bringing home a sounds book with the sounds which we have been teaching in class. We teach 3-4 new sounds per week. Please practise saying, reading and writing these sounds at home daily with your child.

For how to help your child with handwriting you can have a look at the parents section using the link below on the Teach Handwriting website.

<https://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/handwriting-expected-levels-age-4-to-5-year-olds.html>

The link to the section of the website below gives lots of information on the key strengths needed for handwriting and how you can support your child with these.

<https://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/handwriting-key-strengths.html>

Games to build fine and gross motor skills for handwriting.

<https://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/gross-and-fine-motor-skills-games.html>

After half term we will start to introduce the high frequency and tricky words which children are expected to learn over the Reception year. We will teach them and send them home in a word box. Once your child has mastered a group of these words we will send out the next group for them to learn. Again it is really important that you encourage your child to learn these at home. Short regular practice is the most effective.

Starting before half term we will send a reading book home with each child. Please read with your child – there are questions in your pack which should help you to ensure that your child is developing comprehension skills as well working on decoding skills. We will hear all children read over the course of the week, 6 each day and then change the books that day. Your child will begin to know which day they are heard read and hence which day their book will be changed. **Please sign the reading record to indicate that you have shared the book together.**

Please ensure that both the reading book and the sounds book are in your child's book bag each day so that we can update these as necessary.

The emphasis in Maths is problem solving using mathematical language and hands on problem solving using apparatus – bead strings, Numicon, counters, dice and shapes. Children are encouraged to talk through their reasoning and thought processes.

The Reception team will use some common signs from Makaton (a sign symbol system) to support children's understanding and communication in a variety of situations. It encourages children to be visual and increases their attention especially in whole class situations.

Please teach your child to use a knife and fork correctly. In addition to speeding up lunchtimes it will improve your child's fine motor skills. This is extremely important as many children are unable to correctly handle materials for mark making. Please use the pinch and flick method each time your child holds writing materials.

With anything that your child brings into school please make sure that it is clearly named with your child's full name and not just initials this allows us to make sure it gets back to you as speedily as possible.