



Sandon Primary Academy

Frequently Asked Questions

How will my child be taught to read?

We start by teaching phonics to the children in the Nursery Class. We do this through planned talk opportunities where children are supported to orally build sentences and stories. We also plan in free talk opportunities where children orally blend sounds into words. In summer term, children are then taught to recognise single letter sounds.

In reception onwards, children then learn how to 'read' 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.

The children also practise reading and spelling what we call red words '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 use various ways to find out how the children are getting on in reading. Mainly we complete a RWI blending and speed sound assessment every half term. 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/she needs some extra help to keep up.

In the summer term of year 1, 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. However, if your child is still not reading at their age appropriate level we will continue to support them on the RWI scheme for as long as they need.

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. Senior teachers watch other teachers to make sure that the children are learning in the way we want them to learn.

What can I do to help?

Your child will bring a book bag book and a library book home from school.

The book bag book is a book matched to their reading level and one that they have read in class. Allow them to read the sounds, words and sentences in this book to you out loud. Help your child to sound out the letters in words and then to 'push' the sounds together to make a whole word if they get stuck (we call this free talk). Try not to refer to

the letters by their names. Help your child to focus on the sounds. You can hear how to say the sounds correctly at this link: [Parents - Ruth Miskin Literacy](#)

Ask your child questions about things that happen or what they think about some of the characters in the story. There are questions towards the back of the story book that you can look at together.

We know parents and carers are very busy people. But if you can find time to read the library book to your child as much as possible, it helps him/her to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading and talk about reading as a family.

Read the parent reading leaflets on our website.

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. We know absence cannot always be helped and so if your child is absent a virtual lesson will be sent to them via dojo for them to catch up on when they are able to.

What if he/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.

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

What if my child turns out to be dyslexic?

The way we teach reading is especially helpful for children who might be dyslexic. This is because we use a very well-organised programme that has a strong focus on phonics. This is very important for children who find learning to read difficult. If you are worried about your child, please come and talk to us.

My child has difficulty pronouncing some sounds. Will this stop him/her learning to read through phonics?

This isn't a problem for learning to read as long as we know what sound the child is trying to say. This is not something to worry about. Many children have a few sounds that they can hear clearly but find it difficult to say, particularly the l-sound, r-sound, w-sound, th-sound, s-sound, sh-sound and j-sound. You can help your child by encouraging him or her to look at your mouth when you say the sound. Whatever you do, do not make your child feel a failure. They can easily learn to read, even if they find one or two sounds difficult to say.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. We are here to help.