

Read Read Read!

It is crucial for children to practice their reading at home, whether it is reading a book or talking with you, a little bit everyday will make a huge difference.

- Share reading books
- Read real world text such as signs and shop names
- Make up stories together
- Talk about stories and characters
- Talk about things around you when out and about



Carnforth School

Carnforth Drive
Worcester
WR4 9HG

Phone: 01905 758425
Website: www.carnforthschool.org

Early Reading

How can I help my child?



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Learning to read

From a very early age, most children love to listen to stories and look at books. Some children pick up early symbols and words before they start nursery but for most children, starting reception is when they really begin to read.

Phonics

Phonics is a method of learning to read that is taught from the start of reception.

Children are taught to read letters or groups of letters by saying the sound they represent.

For example: children are taught that the letter m sounds like mmmmmm when we say it, and that the letters a and y make one sound when said together– children are taught to remember the sounds using a picture and phrase.



At school, you will hear adults and children talking about 'Fred talk'. This is how we remind young children to 'sound out' a word. As soon as children can recognise the sounds of a small group of letters, they will begin to blend these sounds in words.

The first sounds taught are:

m a s d t l n p g o

From these letters, children could read sat, fin, man, pig, dog, sad and many more.

You will see charts like this around school:

Simple Speed Sounds												
Consonant sounds - strictly												
f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng	nk	
Consonant sounds - loosely												
b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
k												
Vowel sounds - strictly						Vowel sounds - strictly						
a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow				
Vowel sounds - strictly												
oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy					

It is important that children learn to recognise the sound and say them accurately.

A film demonstrating how to pronounce the sounds purely can be found here:
www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/

Reading at Home

To read well, a child needs to have as much practise as possible. Your child will come home with two types of reading book.

One book will be a 'book bag book' which only uses the sounds your child has learnt. It is expected that your child will be able to read these books using their knowledge of the sounds. They may need to 'Fred talk' some of the words to start with. Your child will keep this book for at least two days to make sure they are practising reading with fluency.

The other book will be one your child chooses; they may be able to read some of the words but it may be a book that you will need to share together. This can be changed daily if required.

