



BISHOPSWOOD INFANT SCHOOL

How to help at home – Foundation Stage Literacy

This document aims to give you some information about literacy in Year R, our expectations and how to help at home.

Phonic sound books

Each week your child will be introduced to new letter sounds through the use of “cued articulation”; a strategy which helps the child understand how the sound is made through their mouth, nose and throat. Your child will learn the letter sound, an action to go with the sound and how to write it. On a Friday we will send home the book so that you can practise saying the sound, the action and writing the letter. This will help strengthen their knowledge and start their reading and writing process. Please practise these regularly during the course of a week.

Cued articulation

Cued articulation teaches the children how to say the pure sound, such as “t” rather than saying “terrrr” or “r” as “rrrrr” not “ruh”. It also incorporates an action that demonstrates how the sound is made. A sheet with all the resources on is attached in the ‘resources pack’ in your child’s book bag today.

Reading books

Your child now has a reading book, which will be changed weekly. Even though there are no words, the first books are important to help them practise becoming a reader without having to worry about reading the words. Suggested activities include:

-modelling telling the story.

-asking your child to retell using the pictures.

-ask them questions about the story such as who, why, what, where, when? The answer might not be in the book, but it will encourage your child to use their imagination or clues in the pictures.

As we progress with the letter sounds they will learn how to blend the words together to read them:

Eg c-a-t

t-e-n

d-o-g

Once your child is beginning to blend we will introduce books with words and simple sentences, most of which they should be able to read themselves by blending.

Please practise reading with your child **daily**. We understand the children get tired after a day at school, however it is important to incorporate reading and the sharing of books as part of your daily reading routine. Please record every time **your child reads to you** in the monkey book.

Reading Race

To encourage children to want to read at home, we have a whole school competition called the 'Reading Race'. By increasing the amount of time children read at home they become more confident in their reading, allowing them to decode with more accuracy and read more fluently.

The percentage of children who have **read at home 3 or more times during the week** (Friday evening until Friday morning) is worked out and the winning 3 classes move their car on the display in the hall. (The winning class moves three spaces, the second class moves two and the third moves one) At the end of the half term, the class who has moved along the track the furthest is awarded with a non-school uniform day or similar. You should have received a letter on Friday 6th about the reading race however if you have any further questions please speak to your child's class teacher.

Singing songs

Singing songs and rhymes is another great activity you can do at home. This was sent home in your communication pack in October. It strengthens children's vocabulary and helps develop a love of language.

Pre-writing skills

Children need to develop good fine motor (small movements) and gross motor (large movements) skills to help them with their writing. These are just as important as the actual writing process. Being outside, throwing balls, playing in the park and riding their bikes all help with gross motor development.

Activities to help with fine motor development include:

- Threading beads
- Manipulating playdough
- Practising cutting skills with scissors
- Using tweezers to pick up beads, seeds and other small objects

-Lego and other construction toys

Handwriting rhymes

We use handwriting rhymes to help children remember how to form the letters. This multi-sensory approach will help children to remember how to form them. These are attached in the front of your child's phonics book. We have also attached the handwriting rhymes sheet, as well as the letter shapes we use, in the resources pack in your child's book bag today.

Suggested activities to help with letter formation include:

-Using white boards and wipe pens

-Chalks outside on the pavement

-Paint brushes, rollers and sponges with water to practise outside

-Trays of rice, sand or glitter to practise forming letters in

We hope this helps but if you ever have any questions please see your child's teacher.

The Early Years Team,