



# Parent and Carer Reading and Phonics Guide





### ***Why is it important to teach reading?***

Reading gives our pupils access to the world around them and supports them in their preparation for adulthood. Reading also allows our pupils to develop their love of books and literature.

### ***What about children who can't yet recognise sounds or text?***

All pupils, even those who aren't ready to learn to read, will be read to during the school day. It's important that we give all pupils access to high quality books so that they can develop their love of reading *and* being read to.

Some pupils find it hard to sit down for a class story, those pupils will have books taken to them and be read to either individually or in a small group (we won't chase pupils with books, we accept that they might opt out for various reasons!).

### ***How will you teach my child to read?***

We start off by teaching pupils to notice sounds around them and move into recognising individual sounds in words (for example, cat would be broken into c – a – t). We're careful to be very accurate when teaching sounds, this may be quite different to the way that adults were taught when they were at school. If you would like to hear how the individual sounds should be pronounced please watch this video. Further information about pronunciation can also be found in this useful leaflet.

When pupils are ready (around stage 5 of our reading curriculum) we begin to teach that different sounds can be represented by letters of the alphabet. We continue to build on this until pupils have a full understanding of the many different ways that we can read and write words.

This teaching methodology is called phonics and is used throughout the country. A great deal of research has been conducted into the teaching of reading and phonics is consistently the most effective.



### ***What programme do you use to teach reading?***

We use a phonics programme called Soundwrite. This is a government accredited scheme that allows us to ensure that reading books are completely matched to what is being taught.

Teachers follow the Soundwrite programme when teaching your child to read. The Soundwrite website can be found here and contains more detailed information. You might see some references to the speed at which phonics is taught, this applies to mainstream schools and not Ivel Valley. We will only ever move at the pupil's rate, however, sometimes we will teach a whole section of Soundwrite and then recap it rather than teaching the same four sounds over and over again!

### ***We teach pupils to read (decode) sounds (phonemes) in the following order:***

**Unit 1**  
a, i, m, s, t

**Unit 2**  
n, o, p

**Unit 3**  
b, c, g, h

**Unit 4**  
d, f, v, e

**Unit 5**  
k, l, r, u

**Unit 6**  
j, w, z

**Unit 7**  
x, y, ff, ll, ss

***These sounds are called the initial code which is followed by the more complex extended code. This includes a wider range of phonemes (for example, sh, ch, aigh).***



## **READING BOOKS**

Every week we will send home reading books with your child. Some pupils will take home a book bag containing a story to share at home whilst others will take home a phonics reading book (that matches with what they have been taught) and a shared story book.

Please read these books with your child if you can. There is also a reading record in the book bag – please complete this every time you read. Pupils will receive certificates for 25, 50 and a book for 100 reads. Please feel free to make a note of any other books that you read at home, we love seeing what pupils are reading!

Reading books are very expensive so please take very good care of them. Due to budget constraints we have to ask parents/carers to replace lost or badly damaged books at cost. Reading books currently cost between £2.50 and £3.75 to replace. However, please don't let this deter you from reading at home, we know that accidents happen and don't want to put anyone off reading with their child!

## **READING IN CLASS**



All pupils have access to reading areas in their classrooms. In addition to this pupils are read to every day. Primary aged pupils are read to twice a day, whilst secondary aged pupils are read to at least once a day.

These books are carefully chosen by staff, some of the books read are 'set texts' that teachers will read to pupils during the year, others are chosen by the teacher. A list of our set texts and more information about how that are chosen can be found here in our reading policy (see policies section of our website). The reading list is a working document so please expect there to be changes and gaps in appendix one.

## **ADDITIONAL BOOKS FOR PUPILS**

During this course of the academic year we will be providing pupils in some year groups with free books to keep at home. These books are provided by The Book Trust. We also provide free books to pupils for whom we receive pupil premium (more information here). Further information is provided in our reading policy.