



Our Reading Scheme And How You Can Help Your Child With Reading

Why do we use a phonetic system?

We want to develop enthusiastic, confident readers!

Phonetically decodable books are carefully matched to a child's phonic knowledge so they **only** include sounds and "tricky words" that they have learnt so far. This means that they can **use their phonics knowledge** and skills to be successful and **read independently**. If they encounter a word they find hard, they can sound it out and then blend the sounds. There is no guess work! Research has shown that this method creates more rapid progress and more engaged readers.

How does the system work?

Books are changed **twice a week** on a Monday and Friday where your child will be given a book that contains the **focus sounds they have learnt that week** (the number of sounds is dependent on your child's ability and stage of learning). They will be able to read every word in the book but will only sound out the ones they get stuck on.

Your child will have already read the book with an adult in school and will practise it further with you at home. Please hear them **read it twice** before it is changed. This repeated reading and practise is really important not only to help children learn and be successful but also to **improve their reading fluency**. By the third time they read the book, they should be reading most of the words without having to sound out so their sentences will flow and they will understand and remember what they are reading and be able to read with some expression.

Children will also get to choose a "book for pleasure" to take home to **share with an adult**. This can be changed as frequently as you and your child like. It is not for them to read to you but for you to share together. You could read it to them on the first day and if you choose to keep it a few days and enjoy it again, they might be able to join in at parts or take turns reading with you. You can find videos giving you ideas of how to do this on our school website: [How you can help your child with their reading | Cliftonville Primary & Pre-School](#).

How will I know which book is which?

Your child's **phonetically decodable book** which they **read to you** will have **2 coloured stickers** at the top of the spine. It will also be a shiny, brand new book! The "**book for pleasure**" that **you read to them**/share together will be a library book so it will have a **plastic jacket** on.

How can I help my child with their reading?

Hear them read their phonetically decodable book **daily** as often as possible!

There are some really useful things **inside the front cover** which show what the **focus sound** is and the "**tricky words**" (words that the children cannot phonetically decode and blend but have to learn) which you can remind your child of before they start reading.

Remind your child if they become stuck on a word to **sound it out then blend** it the way that they do at school (you could use the phrases "Let's sound talk it" or "Use your robot arms"). They may do this out loud or in their head depending on their confidence. (Remember, they should not be sounding out every word, only the ones they find challenging.)

Be positive and encouraging with your child. We want them to see reading as fun and not a chore. Take the lead from your child if they are getting tired or losing focus and let them stop. Some of the later books as your child progresses are quite lengthy and could be read over a couple of sessions.

There are also some useful things **inside the back cover** with questions you can ask to help develop your child's **comprehension** and other activities to improve their fluency.



If you have any further questions, please contact the school and speak to your child's class teacher, year group leader or Mrs Mayhew the English lead.

Thank you for your support.