



Tuesday 12th October, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

How we Teach Reading

As we move towards the end of the first half of the Autumn term, I wanted to write to you with more information about how we teach reading here at Mount Charles and, in particular, to offer further information about the Read, Write Inc. Phonics program.

“The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you’ll go.”
-Dr. Seuss



The Read Write Inc. Phonics programme

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as learning to read independently.

How will my child be taught to read?

We start by teaching phonics to children in Reception. This means that they learn how to ‘read’ the 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 handwriting phrases as a way of remembering the formation of these sounds and letters. Ask them to tell you what these are.

The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call ‘tricky red words’, such as ‘once,’ ‘have,’ ‘said’ and ‘where’. These are important sentence building words but that cannot be decoded using Fred Talk.

The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the ‘tricky red words’ they know. They start seeing themselves as a reader very quickly 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 hear and learn about many more words this way which also helps their reading and writing.

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How will I know how well my child is doing?

We will always let you know how well your child is doing.

We use various ways to find out how the children are getting on in reading. We use the information to decide which 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 or she needs some extra help to keep up.

How do I know the teaching will be good?

All of the staff at Mount Charles have been trained to teach reading using the Read, Writing Inc. program. We believe that it is very important that all the teachers and teaching assistants work in the same way. Senior teachers watch our reading teachers teaching to make sure that the children are learning in the best way possible.

What can I do to help? Is there anything that I shouldn't do?

Your child will begin to bring different sorts of books home from school. It helps if you know whether this is a book that your child can read on their own or whether this is a book that you should read *to* them. The teacher will explain which is which. *Please* trust your child's teacher to choose the book(s) that will help your child the most.

Help your child to sound out (Fred Talk) the letters in words and then to 'push' the sounds together to make a whole word. 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: <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/#lg=1&slide=2>

Sometimes your child might bring home a picture book that they know well. Please don't say, 'this is too easy.' Instead, encourage your child to retell the story out loud; ask them questions about things that happen or what they think about some of the characters in the story.

We know parents and carers are very busy people. If you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps him or her to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family. If you need any ideas about good books to share with your child, please do get in touch with the school.

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.

What if he or 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. These



adults are specially trained to support these children. Your child will still be in the same group with the other children and won't miss out on any of the class lessons.

My child has difficulty pronouncing some sounds. Will this stop them 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.

I hope you have found this information useful and that it has helped to answer some of your questions.

I will be running a **Parent's Information Teams Meeting** on **Thursday 4th November** at **4.30pm** which I invite you to join to find out more about Read, Write Inc. and the ways in which you can support your child at home. Please join me if you can.

I look forward to seeing you on screen but if you do have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks
Miss S Hildyard
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Early Reading and Writing Lead