Reading in the Early Years at South Hill School

South Hill Primary School: 'Building Character, Learning Together'
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The Importance of Reading



What benefits are there to sharing stories?

From babies to children in their early years and all the way through to early teens, reading brings profound and wide-ranging benefits that can have a lifelong positive impact on the lives of children.

Here is a quote from the BookTrust website:

> "Shared reading provides unparalleled opportunities for a child's verbal interactions with their parent or carer. Among the many key childhood activities such as playing with toys, arts and crafts or sharing mealtimes, shared reading has particular value in creating these opportunities"
>
> **Our Benefits of Reading report**

What benefits are there to sharing stories?

Reading supports children to…

Overcome disadvantage

Develop better mental wellbeing, social skills and strong relationships

Meet speech and language milestones and do better at school

Develop imagination, empathy and creativity

Visit the BookTrust Website for more information. The benefits of reading | BookTrust

The 3 Peas of Reading

at South Hill School

Reading Together Helps Every Child Grow!



PRIME

Build the foundations of reading

- Learn sounds and letter patterns
- Practise decoding words
- Read little and often
- Grow reading confidence

A B C

POWER

Reading gives us knowledge and strength

- Learn new vocabulary
- Develop understanding
- Discover new ideas
- Improve learning across the curriculum

PLEASURE

Reading for fun every day

- Choose books you enjoy
- Share stories with family
- Explore new worlds
- Develop a lifelong love of reading

Read at home every day

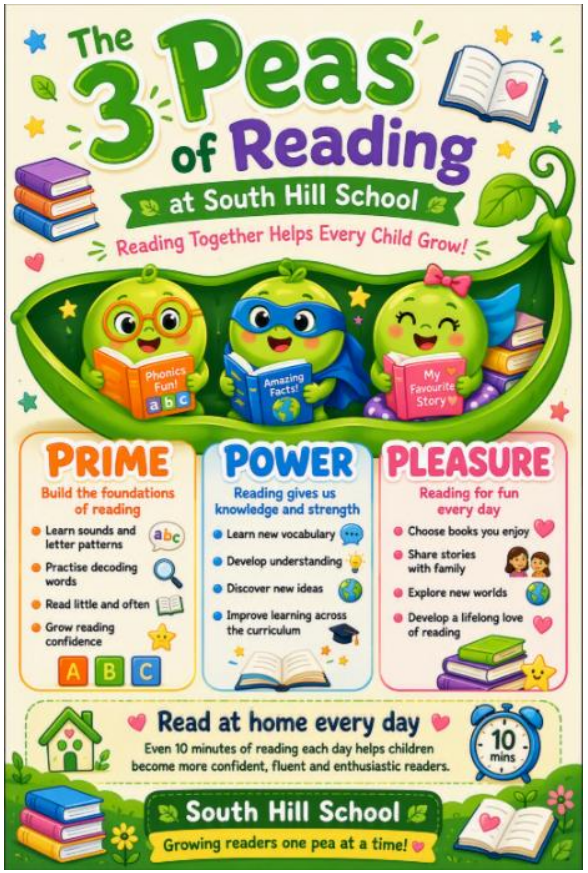
Even 10 minutes of reading each day helps children become more confident, fluent and enthusiastic readers.

10 mins

South Hill School

Growing readers one pea at a time!

Reading at School



- PRIME - Your child is taught phonics daily to build decoding skills.
- POWER – Your child is taught how to gain knowledge in all areas of the curriculum by reading. Our English curriculum is rich in engaging texts to inspire young learners.
- PLEASURE – Each class enjoys stories together every day.

How do we teach reading?

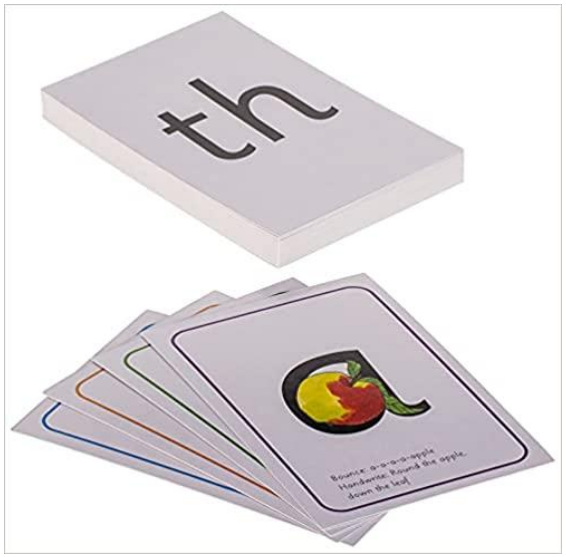
At South Hill Primary School your child is learning to read with ***Read Write Inc. Phonics***, a very popular and successful literacy programme.

Your child will learn to read in a very simple way. He or she will learn to:

- Read **letters** by their 'sounds'
- Blend these sounds into **words**
- Read the words in a **story**.
- (Alongside this they will also learn to form the letters)



In reception children begin by learning the set 1 sounds as a whole class.
After half term they will break into smaller groups for phonics so that each child is working at the level most suited to their needs.



Children are taught the ‘pure’ sounds.

mmm not muh
t not tuh

Muh and tuh are know as a schwa

Its really important that you model the correct pronunciations to your child. This will help when they blend sounds for reading.

First, your child will learn to read:

•Set 1 Speed Sounds: these are sounds written with one letter: **m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v y w z x** and sounds written with two letters (these are called **digraphs**): **sh th ch ng nk**

A phoneme is the sound a letter makes and a grapheme is the way it is written

•Words containing these sounds, by sound-blending,
e.g. m–a–t *mat*, c–a–t *cat*, g–o–t *got*, f–i–sh *fish*,
s–p–o–t *spot*, b–e–s–t *best*, s–p–l–a–sh *splash*

Your child will have received a small green Set 1 sounds book in September and flash cards at the end of each week to practice at home. QR codes to access at home support for sound recognition and blending will also be given.

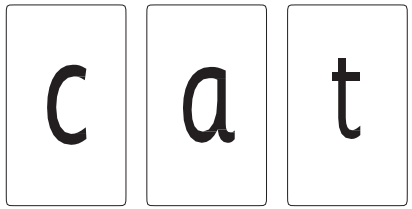
Second, he or she will learn to read:
Set 2 Speed Sounds: **ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy**
Words containing these sounds:
d-ay, day, f-ee-t, feet, c-ar-d, card

Third, he or she will learn to read:
Set 3 Speed Sounds: **ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure**
Words containing these sounds:
m-ea-t, meat, c-oi-n, coin, t-r-ai-n, train

Once your child can read Set 1 Speed Sounds confidently, he or she can learn to read words. First, your child is introduced to a toy frog called Fred. Fred can *only* say the sounds in a word and needs your child to help him read the word. So, when you hear your child say 'Fred Talk', you'll know this means sounding out the word.



You can help your child to read words by following these steps:



1. Write or use sound cards to make a word your child can read easily like c-a-t.
2. Point to and say the sounds, and then say the word. Ask your child to copy you.
3. Muddle up the cards. Ask your child to make the word again, and then point to and say the sounds.
4. Repeat with more 3-sound words, including some containing sounds made up of more than one letter, e.g. ch–a–t, sh–i–p, th–i–s.
5. Put out three cards. This time, ask your *child* to say the sounds.
6. Help him or her to blend the sounds into the words, until your child can do it without your help.

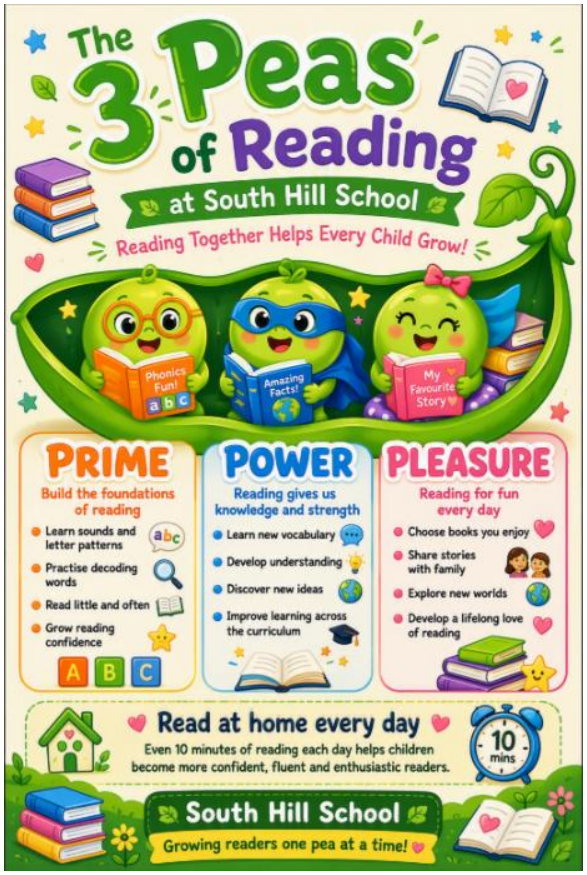
Read Write Inc. at South Hill

What about writing and spelling?

The focus of this session is on using phonics for reading but it also a large part of early writing.
In reception when children first learn a sound they also learn the correct letter formation and there is a rhyme or saying for each set 1 sound to help with the correct formation. As children start to want to write their own words we encourage them to use the sounds they know and use “Fred Fingers” to identify the sounds.
For example if they want to write play that would be shown as three Fred fingers. They can then write each sound.



Reading at Home



- PRIME - Your child is will bring home a book (or to start with a sheet) that matches their learning in school.
- POWER – Your child will bring home a book that will have harder to decode words in but will develop their comprehension skills and their understanding of different text types.
- PLEASURE – Your child brings home a book of their choice from the school library.

Reading at home

The children are taught reading through phonics at school but the most successful readers also read regularly at home. Frequent practise at home helps children to consolidate what they have learnt at school and gain confidence with their reading. If you come to family reading every day too, that gives them an extra 50 minutes of reading a week too!

In Reception all children will begin with wordless books, used for storytelling and comprehension. This develops vocabulary. These can also be used to reinforce phonics for example, “I can see something beginning with the ‘s’ sound, can you see what it is?”

Once your child is blending we will also send home a book with one word per page to practice blending, leading on to simple story books, appropriate to their level.

There also practice activities sent home to do online from the RWInc portal each half term via ClassDojo.

Tips for reading at home

- Make it a positive and pleasurable time.
- Keep it short. (5 mins max to start)
- When your child reads the story, ask him or her to sound out the words that he or she can't read automatically. Don't allow your child to struggle too much. Praise your child when he or she succeeds.
- When your child first starts reading it is good to read back each sentence or page to keep the plot moving. (Your child's energy is going into reading the words not the story.)

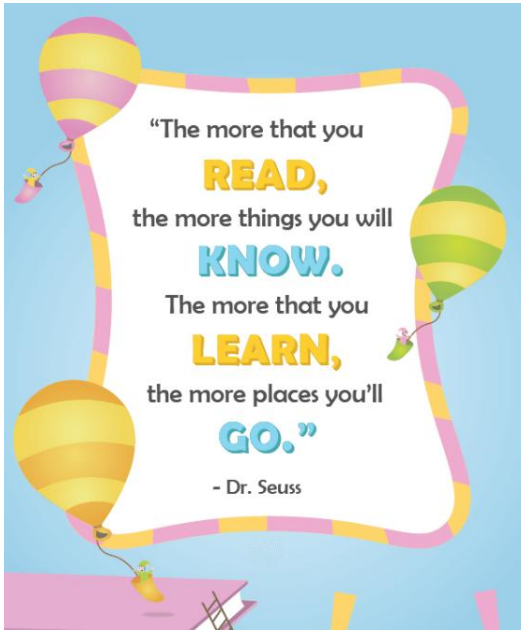
How do we develop a love of reading?

Our school library is used regularly and each class has a session each week where they can choose a book (pleasure) to bring home and share with you. Wrens and Robins visit the library on a Thursday. Books must be returned before receiving a new book.

Family reading - you are welcome to join us every morning in EYFS 8:40-8:50 to read with your child in class and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in Key stage 1.

We also have story times throughout the day at school so children develop a love of stories. We hope that you will do the same by reading to your child at home.

Our English learning is also book-based so children are exposed to a wide range of texts.



Thank you for joining us today.