

Reading in Class 1

During Reception, children develop the important skills they need to become readers. They learn new phonics sounds and codes and practise using these to **decode** words. By the end of Reception, many children are becoming confident at sounding out and blending a wide range of words.

As children move into Year 1, we begin to place a greater emphasis on reading **fluently**.

What does fluent reading mean?

Fluent reading means being able to read a text:

- without needing to sound out every word
- confidently and accurately
- with a good understanding of what they have read
- using expression and appropriate pace
- enjoying the story rather than focusing on decoding every word

We will, of course, continue to use and develop their phonics skills. Children will still need to decode unfamiliar words, and we will continue to learn and practise new phonics codes and sounds throughout Year 1.

Reading books

We will change reading books twice a week (Monday and Thursday) That means you will have the same book for 3/4 nights.

For example:

Day 1: Read the first half of the book.

Day 2: Read the second half of the book.

Day 3: Read the whole book from beginning to end, aiming for fluent, confident reading.

Our aim is for children to become really familiar with their book and be able to read it fluently and confidently by their third read.

Once your child is reading the book fluently, we can then move on to a new book.



How can you help at home?

When reading with your child, encourage them to:

1. Decode new words

Use their phonics knowledge to sound out unfamiliar words.

2. Re-read familiar words

If they have already read a word in the book, encourage them to recognise it rather than sounding it out again.

3. Read with expression

Encourage them to use their voice to make the story interesting.

4. Talk about what they have read

Ask questions about the characters, events and what might happen next. This helps to develop their understanding and comprehension.

5. Read the same book more than once

Re-reading is really important. Each time children read a book, their confidence, accuracy and fluency should improve.

Thank you for continuing to support your child with their reading at home. Every time your child reads, they are building the confidence and fluency that will help them become lifelong readers. ❤️



Reading Comprehension

In Year 1 we use the Pawsome Gang to help our children develop their reading comprehension skills. There are example questions in the front of your child's reading record that link to the character of the Pawsome Gang and the skill they are developing. You can use these questions as a prompt when hearing your child read. The children will begin to become familiar with these characters over the next few weeks as we introduce them in class.

