

Helping at home:

Literacy/Phonics:

- Practise writing their name using upper and lower case letters appropriately
- Talk about their day at school. You can look at our photos to help jog their memory!

Pre Reading Skills

- There are lots of skills which will help your child learn to read so here are some ideas for you. Use games wherever possible!
- *Practise matching shapes, letters and patterns
- *Play memory games
- *Play around with rhymes and rhyming. Read rhyming stories and when your child is familiar with the book, allow your child to fill in the gaps where the rhymes occur.
- Read lots of books together so that your child understands the conventions of print and storytelling.
- Ask for their predictions on how the story might develop and their opinions on the story.
- Would they change anything about the story if they had written it?
- What was their favourite part, their favourite character?
- Conversational skills! Reading involves many skills and language prediction is one of them. Understanding about the conventions of language and language patterns is very helpful.
- Reading is taught phonetically so the children need to know their letter sounds or "phonemes" to help support them with the mechanics of reading
- Practise segmenting and blending with words in stories, in instructions etc. Can you g-e-t a c-u-p?
- Help your child learn the sounds of the letters (not the names - the phonemes) so that your child is ready to decode print and start reading!
- Help your child learn the tricky words for each Phase. Let us know if your child has lost theirs. These are not phonetically decidable and must be learned on sight.

WRITING SKILLS

- Encourage children to write notes, messages and reminders for you
- Play with magnetic letters to leave messages for each other
- Use sponge letters in the bath to learn the phonemes and to form cvc words.

- Help your children to learn to both read and spell the tricky words we are learning in phonics
- Your children can help to write birthday and Christmas cards as well as party invites!
- Ask your child to write a shopping list for you as you dictate
- Start a series of notes from Superman, Superwoman, the tooth fairy or any book character your child likes. Your child replies and you continue the dialogue!
- Remember, children in FS write phonetically and may only hear initial sounds to start with but will gradually progress to adding end and then middle sounds.