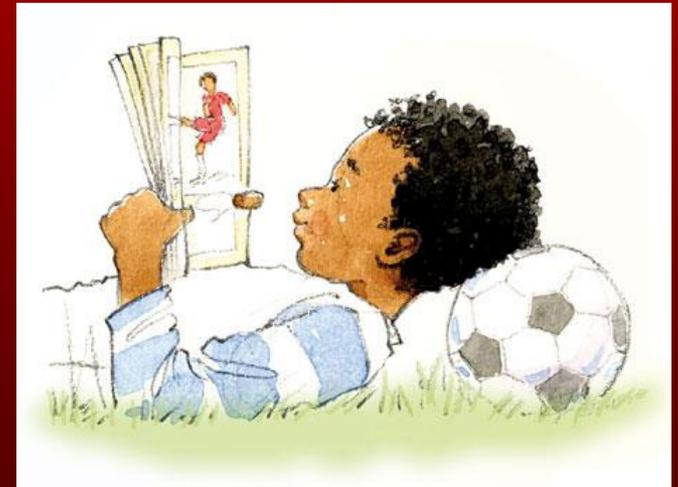




Let's read

Home and School working together



Our aim

In class R our main aim for reading is for the children to develop a love of books.

This is why we provide children with a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books so that they can explore different stories and themes and spark interests and discussions. We also share stories daily and read interactive digital stories together.

For children to develop a love of books the pressure needs to be taken away from learning to read so that the children can move at their own pace and find it an enjoyable experience.



Reading area

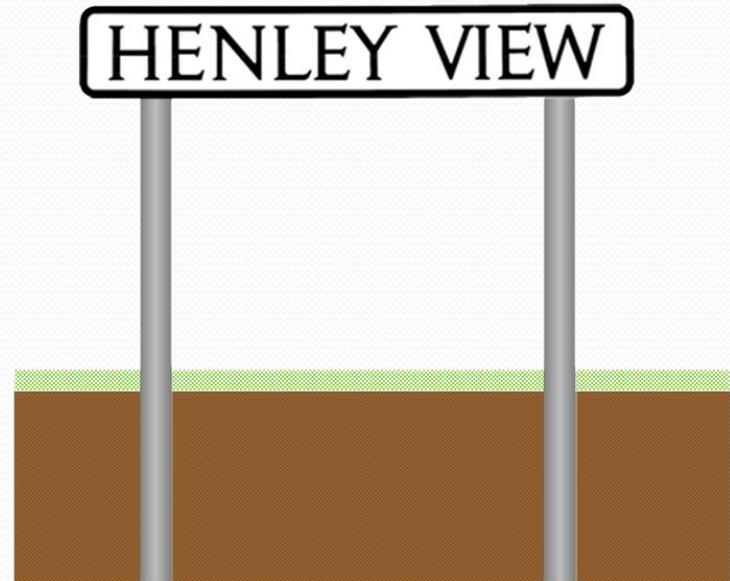


In class our reading area is a cosy dome tent with cushions and blankets so that the children have a comfortable environment to enjoy stories. If children relate a comfortable environment to reading then it can make them more relaxed about the process of learning to read.

It is also important for children to have a comfortable reading area at home so they can continue to develop their love of reading outside of school.

The environment

It is important for children to understand that text is not only in books, that it can be found everywhere. This helps them to understand that words have meanings.



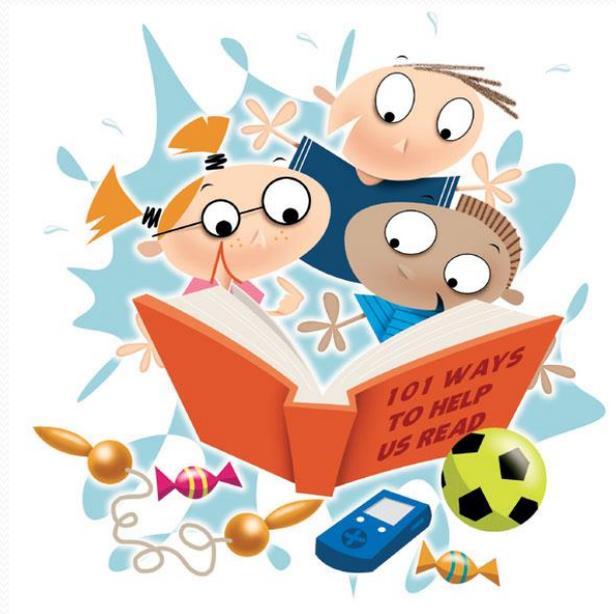
Wherever you are be word detectives, this will make it exciting for the children. Look out for words on signs, packaging, television etc.



Set challenges for finding words in places you haven't before or words with more letters than they have spotted before. If children are aware of the print around them it can make seeing the words on the page of a book less daunting when it comes to the reading process.

Learning to read

For most children the reading process begins with learning the sounds that letters make and then how to put them together to read words.



A language rich environment can help children to understand and hear the sounds and patterns within words. Being able to hear the sounds within words is the starting point of linking letters to their sounds. This can be encouraged through games such as:

- I spy
- Alphabet games
- Sounding out words in conversation
- Sound bingo
- Singing nursery rhymes and Jolly Phonics Songs

Also use lots of praise to develop children's confidence when they are doing well but most importantly praise their efforts, how hard they are working, how long they have concentrated. Also praise the children for not giving up and for having another go. Ask the children for help. This shows them that it is ok to ask for help and they will love to play the part of Teacher.

Help to develop your child's reading at home

- Talk about the books they bring home.
- Check your child is following what you/they are reading by asking open questions.
- Allow your child to re-read/re-tell favourite and familiar stories.
- Encourage children to retell stories in their own words.
- Write labels on drawings to show words belong to things.
- Let children see that you enjoy reading.
- Cbeebies Storytime app.



Phonics

We have now started our phonics sessions in Class R which normally last for around 15 minutes every morning. Phonics sessions involve:

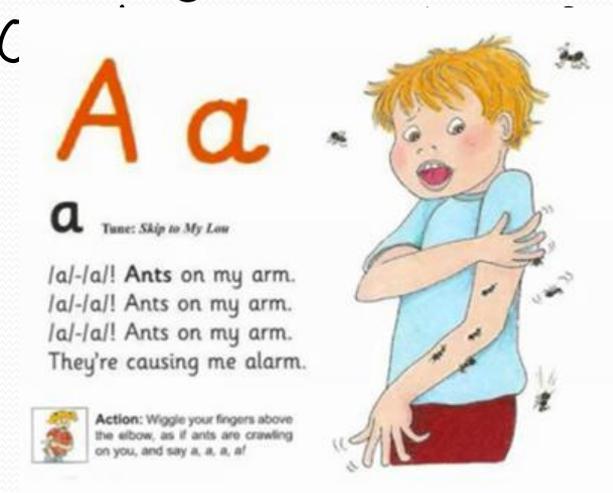
- Listening and identifying sounds.
- Developing an understanding of the shapes of letters to help with letter formation and identification.
- Learning the names and sounds that letters make.
- Segmenting- Breaking down the word to help identify it.
- Blending- Building the word so that it can be read.
- Learning tricky words.

The phonics programme we use at Hartwell school is Jolly phonics.

There are 42 sounds in this programme - 26 initial sounds then a bank of digraphs such as ai, oi, oo, etc.

Each sound has an action, story and song which means the sounds are taught through learning styles.

There is a video on YouTube of all the songs!



Tricky words

The children will also be learning tricky words which are words that can't be spelt phonetically. For example we, all, are.

These words are stuck onto the purple hat during the phonics session then also displayed around the classroom so the children become familiar with them.

At home you could play games like tricky word hunt and tricky word snap.

Constantly review the words your child already knows.

Reading with your child

Even when your child can read it is still important to read stories to them. This can introduce them to new

words and helps them to pick up the elements of effective reading (pace, expression and flow).



Reading sessions

Your child will take part in regular reading sessions within school. This normally involves Mrs Newcombe or I hearing individual readers or small groups where the children learn specific reading skills and discuss key concepts.



The progress they make with their reading and things to work on will be communicated with you through their reading records.

Sound bags

Starting soon your child will be bringing home a red and yellow sound bag.

- Red bag- Letters for your child to practise.
- Yellow bag- Letters get placed in this bag when the child can read them successfully in school 2 consecutive times.
- Use these letter cards to also blend sounds so that children can use this as a reading strategy.
- Sounds checked every week. Must be right 2 consecutive weeks.
- After the children know the first set of single sounds the first set of tricky words will be sent home. The children again have to know these 2 consecutive weeks before they are moved and replaced with ones from the next set.
- Use the strategies discussed to help children learn these at home.
- Please remember that all children are different and some will find identifying sounds a lot harder than others. This is to be expected and we will work with the children to find strategies that help them learn best.

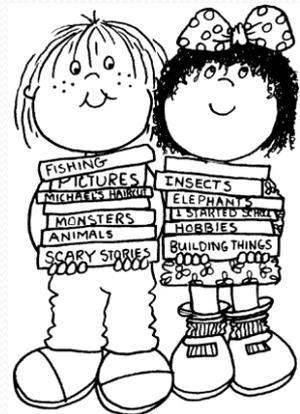
Please do not move the letters between bags!!

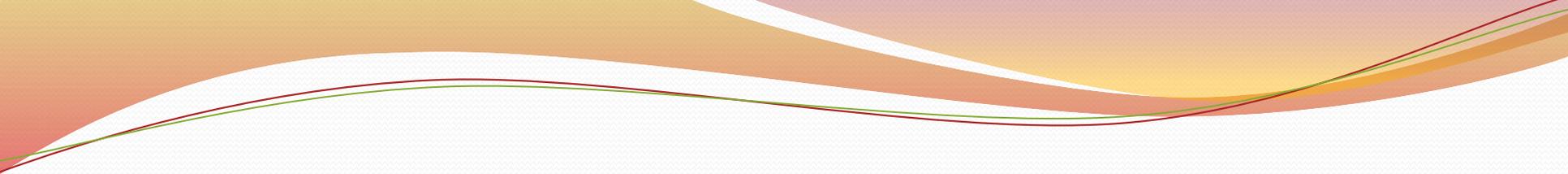
Reading books

Soon the children will be sent home with a reading book along with a library book.

To start with this book will be for developing a love of reading and to have ownership of a book. Then after observations during phonics lessons and sounds card checks we will send home books based on ability.

Some of the reading books have no words. This is to encourage children to use the pictures to create their own stories and develop an understanding of story structure.





Happy reading!!