

Upton Cross ACE Academy

Upton Cross
Liskeard
Cornwall
PL14 5AX
www.upton-cross.cornwall.sch.uk
Headteacher: Emily Goodey



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How we teach reading – answers for parents

The Read Write Inc. Phonics programme

You will be aware by now that at Upton Cross we have slightly changed how we teach our daily phonics. We have written this guide for parents. It explains how we teach reading using the *Read Write Inc* programme and hopefully it will answer some of your questions. There will be a parent forum on **Monday 7th October at 2pm in the school hall**, which we encourage you to come to. You will be able to find out more information about *Read Write Inc* and have additional questions answered.



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 and enthusiasm 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 simply learning to read.

How will my child be taught to read?

We begin by teaching phonics to the children in Stara class. 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. We then build on these reading skills in KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2).

The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call ‘tricky words’, such as ‘once,’ ‘have,’ ‘said’ and ‘where’.

The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the ‘tricky words’ they know. They start thinking that they *can* read and this does wonders for their confidence.

The teachers read to the children too, so the children become familiar with a broad range of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and this has a positive impact on their writing skills.

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 progressing in reading. We use this information to decide your child’s reading group. Your child will work with children who are at the same reading level as them. Children who are assessed to be making fast progress will then be moved to the next group. Your child will have one-to-one support if we think he or she needs some extra help to keep up.

The DfE Phonics Screening test is also used as an assessment to measure the children’s ability and is then compared with national data. This is carried out with Year 1 children in the summer term.

How long will it take to learn to read well?

By the end of Year 2, your child should be able to read aloud books that are at the right level for his or her age. In Year 3 onwards, we concentrate more on helping children to focus on comprehension skills. These skills are taught throughout the process of learning to read and becomes more in-depth once the children are fluent readers.

How do I know the teaching will be good?

All the staff have been trained to teach reading in this way. We believe that it is very important that all the teachers and teaching assistants work in the same way and are consistent in their approach. Senior teachers monitor the standards of reading across the school. Official RWI training has been delivered to our staff who deliver the phonics systematic programme, They have completed a 2 day training course and are regularly supported by the Kernow English Hub.



If you are worried about the teaching, groupings or you have any questions, please come to school and talk to us. Your first port of call must always be the class teacher.

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

Come along to our parent forum so that we can explain how we teach reading and how you can support your child. (Details above)

Your child will 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 have explained 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 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 avoid saying, 'This is too easy.' Instead, encourage your child to tell you the story out loud; ask them questions about things that happen in the book or what they think about some of the characters in the story.

We know parents and carers are very busy people. But if you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps them to learn. They will also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family. You can find out about good stories to read to your child here:

<https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Does it matter if my child misses a lesson or two?

It certainly matters if your child misses school. The way in which we teach reading is systematic, 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 your child 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 to work one to one. 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 general class lessons.

If we have any serious worries about your child's reading, we will talk to you about this.

What if my child turns out to be dyslexic?

The way we in which we teach reading is especially helpful for children who might be dyslexic. This is because we use a very well-organised programme that has a strong focus on phonics. This is very important for children who find learning to read particularly difficult. If you are worried about your child's reading ability, please speak to their teacher.

My child has difficulty pronouncing some sounds. Will this stop him 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. Often they say a t-sound for the c-sound; "ttssh" for the s-sound; "w" for the r-sound and "r" for the l-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.

The most important thing is that you encourage a love of reading!

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. We are here to help.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Hall

Reading Lead



