



At Wellesley Park we teach children to read and spell using the phonics scheme Letters and Sounds. This means that children learn specific sound and letter combinations (phonemes and graphemes) in a specific order. Please see our document 'Learning to Read Through Phonics at Wellesley Park' for lots of information about how we teach phonics.

To make sure that children are able to apply their phonic knowledge, we use phonetically decodable books while children are taught the Letters and Sounds scheme. This usually lasts until the end of Year 2. These are the books that children will come home with to share with you. At Wellesley Park we use 'Bug Club Phonics' books by Pearson Schools. This scheme comprises of 134 fiction and non-fiction books designed to engage and enthuse the children in their reading. Children will move through the scheme at their own pace, with their books matching their phonic learning in school.

We recognise that learning to read through phonics is a different way to learn to read than you would have used. We want you to feel comfortable and confident in sharing reading with your child and that you are an integral part of the process. We will send home information about what your child is learning so that you are able to share this at home. We will provide books that your child should be able to decode confidently and you will be able to enjoy developing the fluency of their reading. Fluent readers are able to decode quickly and confidently, recognise some words on sight, understand what they are reading as they go and add expression where appropriate. This means that you may feel the books that your child is reading are too easy. This is in fact important as it lifts the emphasis away from decoding, which many children find takes lots of effort and attention, and allows children to focus on their fluency. We would like you to encourage your child to only sound out when they find a word they do not recognise on sight, talk to them to check their understanding of what they are reading and to add expression when they are reading. It is important that they have good reading role models, so reading their book to them, showing them how you use your voice to make the words interesting, will help them to become better readers.

After the children have finished Phase 6 in the Letters and Sounds scheme, they should be able to read any age-appropriate book that they pick up. However, it is still very important that teachers continue to practise and develop reading skills in a supportive and systematic way. At Wellesley Park, as the children enter Year 3, they move on to the Accelerated Reader (AR) Scheme.

AR helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practise. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer – passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. Teachers may assist children by:

- Guiding them to books appropriate to their ability and interests
- Asking probing questions as your child reads and before quizzing
- Pairing your child with others, reading with or reading to your child.

Reading Schemes at Wellesley Park



Since they are reading books at their own reading and interest levels, most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

In school, the STAR Reading assessment is used to determine your child's reading level. It is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses, making the difficulty easier or harder where appropriate. The test uses multiple choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes. Teachers will support your child in taking a STAR Reading assessment every half term.

Book levels represent the difficulty of the text. The levels range from 0.2 up to 13.5. Books are chosen based on recommendations from the STAR Reading assessment. Each child is given a range of books (for example 2.5 to 2.9) to challenge them without causing frustration or loss of motivation. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within the given range. Teachers may decide that a child needs to read books beyond the original range suggested by the STAR Reading assessment in order to give them a fresh challenge.

Each book on the AR scheme has an interest level which indicates the age group that a book is appropriate for, based on the content and themes. These are recommendations only and teachers and parents are recommended to use their best judgement when guiding children in choosing their books. We have lots of books that the children can choose from in school, however we are also aware that many children like to read their own books from home. You can visit the website www.arbookfind.co.uk to search all of the available books with AR quizzes to see if the book your child wants to read is on the scheme. If not, then it doesn't mean your child can not read the book but rather that there will be no quiz available and therefore it will not be recorded on your child's AR profile.

Once you have read with your child, please record your thoughts in your child's Home/School contact book (for Reception, Year 1 and 2) or in their Reading Record (for Years 3 to 6). Teachers will help children to change books when they feel they have demonstrated a good level of fluency in their reading.