

Please keep a record of when you read with your child in their reading diary. We expect our children to read EVERY night. Research shows that the best young readers are those that practise every day.

Reading together—Top tips!

- ♦ Read little and often. Regular practise is the key to helping your child to master the skill of reading.
- ♦ Enjoy it! Make reading an enjoyable experience. Choose a quiet time where games consoles, tablets and the TV are switched off so that your child can concentrate.
- ♦ Be positive. Praise your child for trying a new word, even if they don't get it quite right.
- ♦ If your child gets stuck, suggest a way to work out the word rather than telling them straight away. It's ok to 'grapple' with words when reading. It's a really good idea to then encourage your child to re-read the sentence and put the new word in.
- ♦ Ask questions. Talk about what is happening in the book to check that your child is listening to themselves as they read.
- ♦ Communicate. Please get in touch with your child's class teacher through Class Dojo if you wish to discuss any reading issues, concerns or you wish to share your child's reading successes!

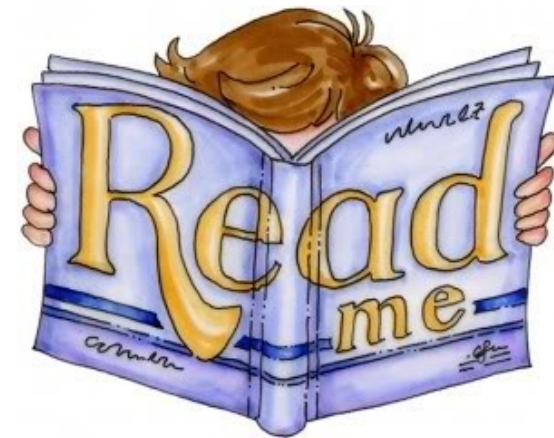
By working together, we can ensure that our children become successful, happy, life long readers.

Happy reading!

Priestsic Primary School



Helping your child with reading



Year 1

Why reading matters



Reading books with your child is the most important thing you can do to help them become confident and successful readers.

- ◆ Go to bed with a book! Reading a story at bedtime every night to your child is really important. Sharing books and stories at any time in the day is vital to develop your child's reading—and it is very enjoyable too.
- ◆ You are your child's main reading role model! What you do at home really makes a difference. Let your child see you reading. This will encourage them to be readers too.
- ◆ Reading is an essential life skill. It helps children to increase their vocabulary, develop their speech skills, use their imagination and learn about the world around them.

Reading at school



In school, we teach the specific skills of reading in whole class lessons, in groups, through independent activities and through one to one reading. In Year 1, children also have a daily phonics session which is where they learn to recognise the 44 phonemes and learn to use them in reading and spelling. We also read stories and poems to our classes every day and share books together throughout the day, learning about authors and different types of books.

In Year 1, we focus on the skills of blending—working out what words say, as our prime approach to reading. We teach this by blending the sounds or 'phonemes' in the words eg ch/ee/k, then saying them quickly or smoothly in order to read the word.

Children in Year 1 should also be able to read lots of words 'on sight' that they meet regularly in books. These are words like 'were', 'come', 'like' and 'said'. These are words that don't need blending, children just need to be able to recognise them every time they meet them.

Due to Health and Safety guidance, staff members will not currently be writing in your child's reading diary. This is for you to record in when you read with your child at home. We will, however, let you know when your child has read in school by sending home a reading slip which explains what your child worked on during their reading session. Please be assured that your child will still be reading in school regularly and that reading remains our top priority in Year 1.

Reading at home



Currently, due to Covid-19 guidelines, your child will be reading DIFFERENT books in school to the ones we send home. We will change your child's home reading books once a week. Wherever possible, and where our book stock allows, we will send home 2 bookbanded books a week for you to read together. Please read these books at least twice each—once to practise decoding skills and once for pace and fluency.

The coloured bookband sticker in your child's reading diary gives you lots of tips and guidance about what your child needs to work on in their reading.

What does reading homework include?

- Read the home reading books twice each. Practise any words that your child finds tricky. Ask them questions to check that they are making sense of what they read.
- Practise reading the key words (on the animals, shapes etc) and Year 1 common exception words every time you read.
- Phonics homework—practise blending to read the words in your child's homework wallet. Please also practise recognising the phonemes on the phonics chart in your child's reading diary.
- Reading the Year 1 Recommended Read book and/or library book that your child brings home together.