

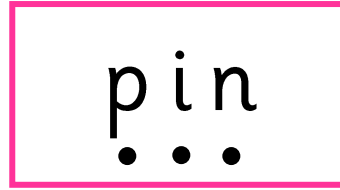
Early Reading at Franche Primary School



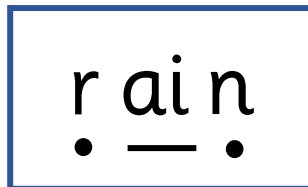
Welcome to the beginning of the most wonderful journey in which your child, whatever their starting point, will become a fluent, confident reader who loves books! For many children at the start of Reception, letters look like squiggles on the page and have no connection to sounds. We begin by teaching children to recognise and read their name each morning with self-registration, take part in exciting story sessions and engage in daily phonics sessions. This is when we learn that letters and sounds are linked – *phonics* – is the key to reading.



In the Autumn term, we will teach children the sounds of the first set of letters in the 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' phonics scheme (Phase 2) so they can begin to use phonics to read. In Reception, we start reading wordless books and, when they can blend sounds into words, children begin to read Phase 2 books. Wordless books are invaluable as they teach reading behaviours and early reading skills to children who are not yet blending. In these reading sessions the children are encouraged to talk about what they can see in the pictures, point to the images on the page and make links from the book to their own experiences.



In the Spring term, children begin to learn Phase 3 sounds. These are common vowel digraphs (two letters making one sound, for example 'oa') and trigraphs (three letters making one sound, for example 'igh'). Spotting these digraphs and trigraphs is key to cracking this next stage in the reading journey. Once the children are secure, they go on to read Phase 2 or Phase 3 decodable books, matched to their phonics ability. Some children will use the blending practice books for additional practice with blending sounds into words.



Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home. There are two types of reading book that your child may bring home:

A **reading practice** eBook. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book, give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

A **'sharing'** book. Twice a week, your child will bring home a book that they are unable to read on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The 'sharing' book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

If you would like to learn more about the teaching of phonics, including tricky words, and reading head over to the Phonics and Early Reading page on our website!