

Reading Lessons at Northgate

Dear Parent/carer,

I hope this letter finds you well.

As you know, Reading and the teaching of Literacy are very important part of our curriculum, and underpins teaching and learning.

However, in light of current guidance, Reading lessons will be slightly adapted until further notice. Reading lessons will:

- be taught in class groups
- pupils will be assigned to one of two reading interventions; these are:

Read Write Inc. Fresh Start - *Direct phonics teaching and spelling accuracy or*

Reciprocal Reading- *Direct teaching of core reading skills and comprehension strategies for pupils who are secure in their phonic and grapheme knowledge.*

An expectation of either intervention, is that pupils will read chosen texts (in line with the sequence of teaching) on a daily basis, and staff will record what pupils read, how well they have read and, what their areas of focus will need to be.



Accessing texts for reading at home:

In terms of Read Write Inc. Fresh Start, pupils accessing this intervention will access their reading book online. Staff will ensure that parents/carers are clear about which book each child should be reading and what the objectives for reading the chosen book are.

For example, pupils' books for the Read Write Inc. scheme may (in the early stages of the programme) may feel overly simplistic, and it may seem like your child has regressed. Please be advised that this is not the case; staff are following a very clear phonemic programme, and the allocated book will be in line with concepts taught in class.

Supporting your child at home:

It is important that you use online materials to support the teaching of the Read Write Inc. Fresh Start programme.

To do this, you must register and hold your own account with the Oxford Owl website, where all online reading material can be accessed; this can be completed here: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Once you have created a parent account, you will be able to access the 'e-Books' on offer. Staff will ensure that you are aware of the specific book you should be reading with your child.

What is it all about? Parents/home learning (A MUST-WATCH!):

Parents supporting their children at home should access the following information links on how to use the Owl resources and accessing daily lessons on Read Write Inc., here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrqwiStOl60&list=PLW-Dpen99Aj5c4_uBZsCyTzSIDIPsyPLR&index=2

Ruth Miskin (the originator of the Fresh Start programme) talks through the elements of the Fresh Start programme (currently delivered in Reading lessons), here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nk9tSZ5wceo&list=PLW-Dpen99Aj5c4_uBZsCyTzSIDIPsyPLR&index=17&safe=active

Books for teaching:

As your child progresses through the programme, they will be asked to read the following texts. Again, this will be managed by your child's teachers and the chosen text will be communicated via their home/school book.

You read more about Blending Books, here: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

As discussed in the information clips above, parents are encouraged to use Ditty books to further support understanding and retention of phoneme/grapheme codes. Ditty books are the bridge between the use and retention of single graphemes, and blending. Information about blending (as well as access to materials) can be found here:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

Using eBooks to secure pupils' levels of the 'set sounds' is crucial in order to really make sure that they have grasped and truly embedded the basic tenets of reading, spelling and writing. Therefore, please ensure that your child reads each recommended e-book three times, as this will build:

1. decoding confidence and accuracy
2. an increase in fluency
3. presentation skills, reading speed and greater understanding of language

You can directly access eBooks here: https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/library-page?view=image&query=&type=book&age_group=&level=&level_select=&book_type=&series=Read+Write+Inc.#

If you require any additional information about the Read Write Inc. Fresh Start or the Reciprocal Reading programme, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Nembhard

Deputy Headteacher.