

Learning in Reception



How children learn in Reception

Teach → Practise → Apply → Deepen

Adult-directed teaching

An adult explicitly teaches new knowledge or a skill.

Guided practice

Children practise and develop their learning.

Independent learning through play

Children independently apply, explore and deepen their learning.

Phonics: Little Wandle

At Bridlewood, we want children to learn the skills they need to read and to develop a genuine love of books and reading.

Reading is the gateway to learning across the curriculum.

Reading for pleasure is associated with benefits for learning and wellbeing.

Phonics: Little Wandle

What is phonics?

Phonics is about making connections between the sounds in spoken words and the letters we use to write them.

Terminology

Phoneme – A sound we can hear in a word

Grapheme – A letter, or group of letters, representing a sound

Digraph – Two letters making one sound

Trigraph – Three letters making one sound

Blend – Putting sounds together to read a word

Segment – Breaking a word into sounds to spell it

Phonics: Little Wandle

We teach sounds in a carefully planned order, so children can quickly begin using what they know to read words.

Pure sounds matter. We say the sounds clearly without adding an extra “uh”.

We aim for all children to be blending by Christmas. We will let you know if your child needs some additional practice

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/> For guidance on sound pronunciation, order sounds are taught and how we teach videos.

Reading at School

Three reading practice sessions each week

Decoding

Reading the words

Prosody

Reading with expression
and meaning

Comprehension

Understanding and
talking about the text

All children read with an adult.

Picture books are really important at the start of children's reading journey.

- Develop vocabulary and language
- Talk about characters, events and feelings
- Make predictions and inferences
- Develop comprehension
- Use pictures to tell and retell stories
- Develop a love of books and storytelling



Reading at Home

The book coming home should feel successful because it has already been practised at school.

Repeated reading builds:

- confidence
- fluency
- automaticity
- enjoyment

Aim for around five reads of the book.

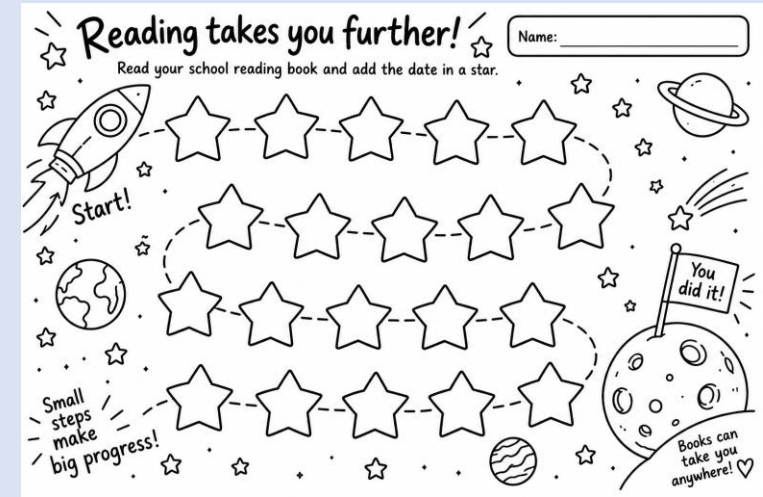
Celebrating Reading

Little and often makes a big difference.

1 read per day = 1 space on the reading log

Milestones to celebrate

- 20 reads = celebration stamp
- 100 reads = Head Teacher visit, certificate in celebration assembly and recognition on the library celebration board.



Reading for Pleasure

Please share a book with your child every day.

The Reading for Pleasure book from school is **not** expected to be independently readable. The purpose of this book is to develop:

- Rich vocabulary
- New ideas and experiences
- Imagination
- Conversations
- A love of books

Key Information

- Reading books returned on Thursday
- New reading books sent home on Friday

A new book cannot be issued until the previous book is returned.

Use the phonics home learning sheet to practise sounds, reading and spelling

Reading record:

Add the date on the reading log tracker for each day your child reads their school reading book.

Please keep water bottles out of book bags.

Lost or significantly damaged books will need to be replaced.

Handwriting

Before children can write comfortably, their bodies need to be ready to write.

Throughout our provision children are developing their gross and fine motor skills needed for handwriting.

We have four focused handwriting sessions each week. Our early priorities are:

- Posture
- Pencil grip
- Control
- Pressure
- Patterns
- Accurate formation

Reception children learn printed letters.

Literacy in Reception

Drawing Club

Developing confident, excited and imaginative writers

We use carefully chosen stories, traditional tales and animations to inspire children to talk, imagine, draw and write.

The Drawing Club approach helps children to develop:

- Rich vocabulary and language
- Imagination and storytelling
- Confidence in sharing ideas
- Motivation and excitement to write
- Opportunities to apply phonics in meaningful writing

When children have something they really want to say, they have a reason to write.



Maths in Reception

Developing deep number sense

15-20 minutes of focused maths each day

4 days: Number

1 day: Shape, Space & Measure

A key Reception skill: **Subitising**

- Seeing how many without counting each one
- Recognising patterns in quantities
- Seeing how numbers are made up of smaller parts



The Importance of Learning Through Play

Play provides a powerful vehicle for children to:

- Explore ideas and make discoveries
- Imagine and be creative
- Communicate thoughts and ideas
- Collaborate and negotiate with others
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Persevere when things don't go to plan
- Practise and apply what they already know
- Develop independence and confidence



Through play children make sense of their experiences and give purpose to their learning. Play is curriculum learning.

Understanding the World

Exploring people, places, nature, communities and the world around them.

Expressive Arts & Design

Creating, imagining, making, performing and expressing ideas.

The Importance of Learning Through Play

The environment acts as another teacher.

Adults in the environment may **observe**, **talk**, **model**, **question**, **scaffold** and **extend** learning.

Inside and outside are equally important learning environments.

Our provision changes in response to the children.

Enhanced provision supports children to:

- **revisit** previous learning
- **practise** a developing skill
- **consolidate** recent teaching
- **extend** their thinking
- **explore** an interest

The same skill may appear in different places and different ways.

“What did you do today?”

“What did you do today?”

“Nothing.”

After a busy Reception day, that can be a surprisingly big question. Sometimes they might need:

- a snack • a cuddle • play • the journey home • quiet time

Sometimes the sharing about the day comes later.

Conversation starters you might like to try:

- “I wonder what made you laugh today.”
- “I saw you’ve been learning about ____ this week...”
- Share something about your day

Supporting learning at home

The most valuable things are often the simplest.

- Read together.
- Talk together.
- Play together.
- Give them time to play independently.
- Notice their interests.
- Celebrate their efforts.

And most importantly...

- Enjoy being four and five!