

Hartwell C.E. Primary School

Let's Read

Developing a love of books together

At Hartwell we teach children to become confident and fluent readers with a love of books and literature for life. This begins in the Early Years and is achieved through a home/school partnership.

Learning To Read

Most children learn to read by putting letters together that match up with the sounds that they remember hearing. They learn the sounds that letters make. They learn how letters join together to make words.

Children see words in the environment all around them; on signs and posters, in shop windows, in the titles of TV programmes. You can use these words to help your children learn. Beginner readers learn that print on a page actually means something. Words name things, they tell stories or give information. You can help your child by:

- Singing - rhymes help children learn about letter patterns.
- Play 'odd one out' - which word is the odd one out cat, mat, dog, sat
- Play 'I-Spy' - it's a great way of showing that every word begins with a letter.
- Encourage your child to choose a book to read.
- Don't keep your child guessing what a new word says for too long, sound it out with them.
- Praise your child when they get a new word right.

The Next Step

Between the ages of 4-7 most children learn to read, but even when they can read you should still try and read to them as often as possible. Sharing stories with a grown-up will teach them new words and will encourage them to become better readers.

Children develop in different ways; some want to get every word right and some want to race to the end of the story. Try to let your child read at their own pace. Eventually you will know where your child needs more help such as slowing down or not worrying so much about mistakes. If they get stuck encourage them to use all the available information and everything they know to make a guess. They should look at the pictures and remembered what happened in the story. Their ability to guess what will happen next will gradually improve.

You can help by:

- Make the most of the books your child brings home. Talk about what is happening in them.
- Check your child is really following what they're reading by asking them to tell you what has happened in the story.
- Allow your child to re-read favourite or familiar stories.
- Listen to stories learnt by heart, or encourage your child to re-tell them in their own words.
- Buy books as presents instead of toys.
- Set up a special place at home for books from the library or school.



Words Are Everywhere!

Some more ideas to help your child to read when you haven't got a book.

- Look at words on packets over breakfast.
- Go to the shops and read the signs over the doors and in the windows.
- Read advertising posters in the streets.
- Ask your child to find familiar, favourite foods in the supermarket.
- Look at a holiday brochure together and read about new places.
- Unpack the shopping and read the words on groceries.



Learning To Read in School

Reading, writing, talking and listening are a key part of what children learn in their first years at school. Your child's teacher will build on the experiences they bring with them to school. All the learning they do at home with you and at school with their teacher's helps children to:

- Want to read
- Enjoy talking about what they read and telling us what they think
- Find things out by reading, from stories, information books, catalogues.
- Learn new words
- Read confidently

Children learn to read best when they have many ways of working out the meaning. These are like searchlights, the more lights that are turned on the easier it is to read. These 'lights' include the sounds of letters, the shapes of letters and words and the meaning.

The more opportunities children have, at school and home, to enjoy reading, the sooner they will begin to feel confident about it.

In school children are continually surrounded by print. They are encouraged to read posters, displays, captions, as well as print in books.

Your child will take part in regular guided reading sessions, carried out with the class teacher. A small group of children all read from the same text, learn specific reading skills and discuss key concepts. The progress they make will be communicated to you along with reading targets for reinforcement at home. The class teacher or your child chooses a book from specific ability range to send home.

To experience a wider variety of texts your child will also choose their own 'penguin box' book from the library. Please share these fun, exciting books with your child and enjoy them together.

Reading At Home

Young children learn a great deal from you about reading. They learn to talk and listen to what you say. They learn about looking at books and ask questions about a story. When they go to school the help you give them is just as important. The more chances your child has to enjoy reading the better. Little and often works well.

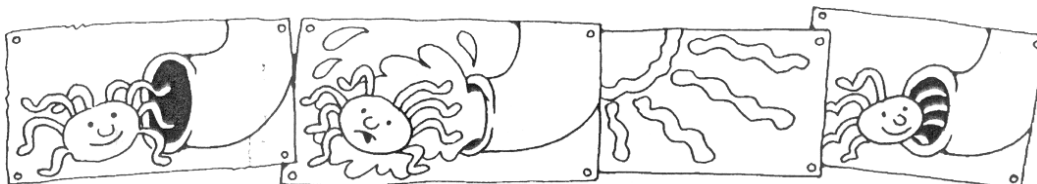
It helps to:

- Read stories together
- Talk about the story
- Let them see you reading
- Help them read signs and labels when you are out
- Visit the public library
- Share songs and rhymes
- Listen to tapes of books and songs

If your child gets stuck on a word while you are reading, you could:

- Let them read on - then they may be able to work out the word
- Point to a picture, if this helps them with the meaning
- Give them the first or last sound and see if they can read the word
- Read the word for them

Encourage them to talk about the ideas in the story.



You can help by doing the following

Whenever you read together make sure your child feels OK and is comfortable.

Use books with pictures and later pictures and words. Don't cover up the pictures to make your child read 'properly'.

- Write titles under pictures (i.e. mummy, house, dog) to show them that words belong to things. You could also stick labels on things at home - or they could do it themselves (i.e. door, cup). Start with simple words.
- Reinforce the shape, sound and name of each letter of the alphabet. (See appendix 1)
- Revisit common words until your child instantly recognises them. (See appendix 2)



Letter Sounds

a for apple

b for ball

c for cat

d for duck

e for elephant

f for fish

g for goat

h for house

i for igloo

j for jigsaw

k for key

l for lion

m for mouse

n for nail

o for octopus

p for parrot

q for queen

r for rabbit

s for sun

t for tiger

u for umbrella

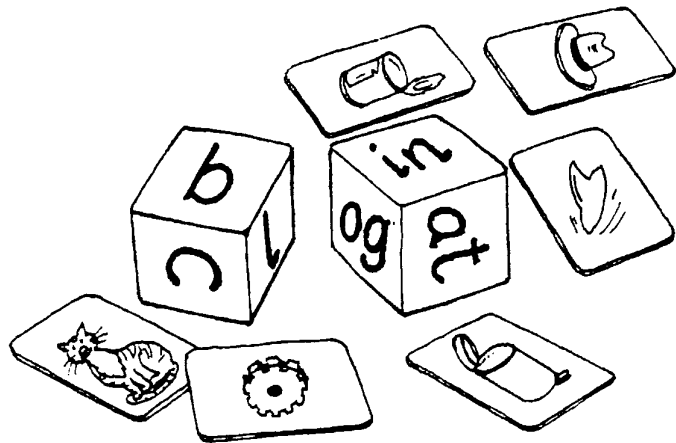
v for van

w for wheelbarrow

x for x-ray

y for yacht

z for zebra



I	cat
you	dog
he	day
she	a
it	the
we	am
they	is
Mum	are
Dad	was

my	come
this	going
look	went
go	said
see	me
like	big
play	all
get	to
yes	in

up	
of	
at	
for	
on	
away	
no	
and	
can	

JOLLY PHONICS

The phonics programme we use at Hartwell School is called "Jolly Phonics".

There are 42 sounds in this programme - 26 initial sounds plus some blended sounds such as ai, oa, oi, and oo.

Each of these sounds has an action which you can find on the attached sheet.

There are also approximately 70 "tricky words" - words which cannot be spelt phonetically e.g. we, the, all, etc. These are stuck on the walls around the classroom and we learn approximately 4 every few days. The current words we are learning are stuck onto the purple hat on the board.

The children have already been very enthusiastic about learning the actions and are very keen to show you!!

Jolly Phonics merchandise is available at:

Early Learning Centre
Fund Junction (Northampton - Abington Street)
WH Smith
Waterstones

There are a whole range of things including games, videos, cards and puppets. There are also some workbooks to help with letter formation.