



Roebuck
PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRE-PRIMARY – YEAR 2 HOME READING

Parent Handbook



INTRODUCTION

Why Home Reading Matters

Learning to read is not something that comes naturally to the human brain — unlike speaking, which children pick up simply by hearing language around them. Reading is a complex skill that must be taught explicitly and practised regularly. That's why the way we teach reading at school is so important to us — and why regular reading at home can make a big, positive difference to your child's progress.

Reading for Homework

At Roebuck Primary School, daily reading is the main form of homework for students in Year 1 - Year 3. We strongly encourage our students to read aloud as many days of the week as possible.

Daily home reading aloud helps your child become a more fluent, confident reader. When children read silently in their heads, they may unknowingly skip words, misread them, or miss punctuation, reinforcing errors and missing out on important aural feedback that supports learning.

Your child can read to a parent, sibling, family member over the phone or even to a pet! Your child can read in the car or in bed at night. The key is reading aloud, with someone listening as much as possible, and making it part of a regular routine.

READING TERMS

What is Phonics?

Phonics is the relationship between the sounds of speech and the letters that represent them. When children learn to read, they start by learning that each letter (or letter combination) represents a sound.

For example, the word tin consists of three sounds - /t/ /i/ /n/

The word shark also consists of three sounds - /sh/ /ar/ /k/

The word scratching consists of 7 sounds - /s/ /c/ /r/ /a/ /tch/ /i/ /ng/

When your child learns phonics at school, they're learning the building blocks that allow them to decode words. That is, to sound out and read unfamiliar words on their own.

UFLI is the phonics program we use at Roebuck Primary School to systematically teach phonics from Pre-Primary to Year 2.

The Reading - Writing Connection

What do you do when you're writing and you don't know how to spell a word? You break the word into sounds and sound it out to help you spell it.

This strategy works because of the strong connection between reading and writing. When children learn to read words by sounding them out (decoding), they are also learning how to spell words by listening to and writing down the sounds they hear (encoding).

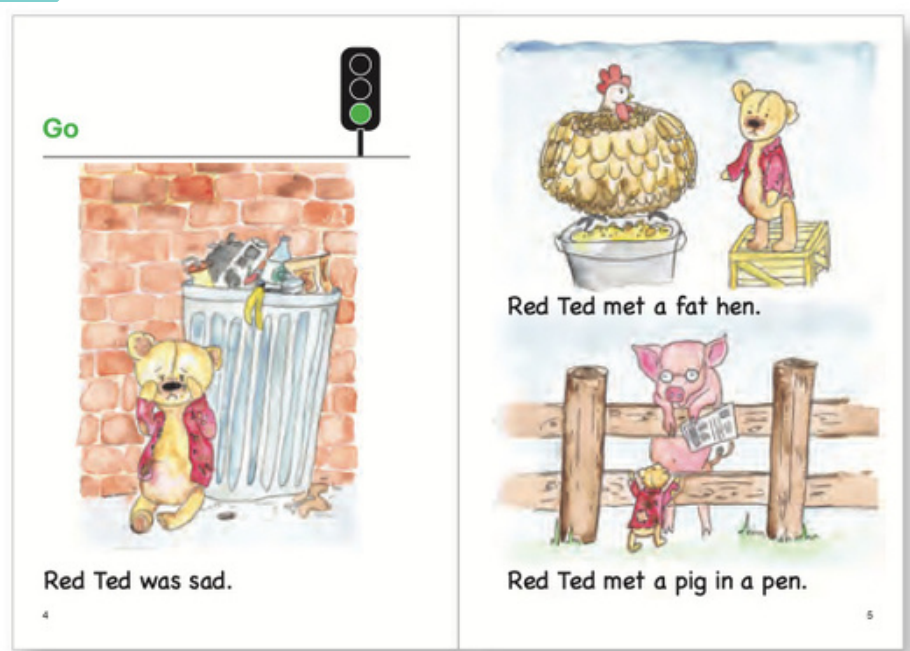
Regular reading at home — especially reading aloud — is such a valuable way to also support your child's writing and overall literacy development.

DECODABLE BOOKS

What is a decodable home reader?

For home reading, your child will bring home a decodable reader. This is a specially designed book that includes words made up of the sounds (phonemes) your child has already been taught in class.

It allows your child to practise reading using their phonic knowledge - the sounds they know.



Repeated Reading

There is a reason why your child will only bring 1-2 readers home for the week. We want your child to practise reading the same text several times to build fluency, accuracy and their confidence.

At first, reading may be slow, and your child may need to sound out every word. This is completely normal. With repeated practise over the week, they will become more fluent, blending sounds more smoothly and eventually reading the whole word.

Each time they practise, they're not only improving their fluency for that text, but the future texts they read.