

Synthetic Phonics Reading Program

Dear Parents/Carers,

Recently, we held an Information session in which we explained how we teach students to read and spell at CSPS as well as the ways that parents and carers can support their child in the process of becoming literate.

The parents who attended learned about the mysteries of the Chitter Chitter Chant, starring Milo the Monkey, and how to help their child blend sounds into words, amongst other details! It was an evening of warmth and laughter and such a lovely opportunity for teachers to get to know, a little better, the parents of the special children we work with daily.



Learning to read and write is complex. Children learn at their own pace and we, as their teachers, support them every step of the way. A child will benefit significantly if what is done at home complements the teachings that occur at school.

We strive to keep you informed as to what you can do to support your child in his/her reading/spelling development but ask that you seek advice from your child's teacher if you have specific questions as to this development. We will communicate with you through Seesaw, the iNewsletter and, if welcome, more information sessions.



This week, we are sending home the "I Can Read" books. Two little books will be placed in the red satchel by your child's teacher. Please hear your child read these books each day for a week, before sending the red satchel back to school so that the books can be changed. An important sheet, explaining what parents can do in hearing their child read, will accompany these "I Can Read" books. At the moment, the focus will be on making sure your child points to the words as he/she reads and that he/she reads them through the process of sounding out and blending.

Later, a video link will be sent to demonstrate how to help your child read by sounding out and blending. The short video, starring my friend Grover and Mrs Anderson, aims to help parents understand the easiest way of blending 3 sounded-words.

A small laminated sheet with all the sounds introduced so far this year, will accompany the "I Can Read" books in the red satchel. We ask that you have your child say the sounds of these as a warm-up to reading the book/s. At first, they may need to use the pictures to prompt recall of the sound, but when you can, cover the picture and point to the sounds randomly. We need recall of the letter-sound links to become fast and automatic.

Finally, some parents/carers, in the past, have volunteered to help during our phonics session. This provides enormous benefit to us and the children as it enables us to facilitate more targeted learning. Parents/carers who have worked in the classroom have commented that it gave them great insight into the complexities of learning to read and write and enabled them to better support their child in this learning process.



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If you would like to help during our reading program (9:00-9:50 Mon-Thurs), please complete the [Volunteer Registration form](#). Please note: you must hold a valid Working with Children Check and have all required vaccinations to be a volunteer. If you missed the last information session a recording will be made available on Seesaw.

Learning to read and write through systematic phonics is both empowering and exciting. The children are all so keen to learn new skills and knowledge. For teachers and parents it is an exciting time as we watch them grow in competence and confidence.

Kind Regards,

Kendra Anderson, Elaine Doughty,
Rachael Richardson, Monique Tempone
& Clare Bennett
JUNIOR SCHOOL TEAM
Friday, 25 March 2022