



Jargon buster

Baseline Test

Many schools will carry out a short test on entry to Reception. Children are tested in the core areas of literacy and numeracy so that they can be supported to reach their goals by the end of the year. The test information will be used alongside a wide range of other activities such as, observations of children and reports to create a helpful and accurate picture of your child's potential and progress in terms of 'expected', 'emerging' or 'exceeding'.

'Buddy' reading

Children read in pairs. The buddy is often an older child.

Blending

To say the individual sounds that make up a word and blend them together to hear the whole word for reading e.g. s-a-t becomes sat. We say you blend to read and segment to spell.

Book Bands

A system of grouping books in bands of colour to represent different levels of reading difficulty.

Comprehension

The understanding of a text; at its simplest this may be an understanding of what the text makes explicit (e.g. the story is about a pumpkin) and at its most sophisticated, it is an understanding of what lies beneath a text (e.g. the authors' experience, historical context, themes and so on) which is often referred to as the deeper levels of meaning, inferential comprehension or higher order reading skills.

Decodable (books)

Books which have been specifically written, using a cumulative structured introduction of phonics, so that children can practise their developing reading skills.

Decoding

To read a word by saying the sounds then joining, or blending, those sounds together to form the word.

EYFS

The Early Years Foundation Stage sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old.

Flashcards

Cards to use in games to help children practise recognizing, at speed, a letter, group of letters, words and/or pictures.

Guided reading

About 6 children, grouped by reading ability, read aloud from the same book at the same time whilst the teacher listens in and draws out teaching points.

High frequency words

These are the words that occur most commonly in the English language. Some are 'decodable' like much whilst others are 'tricky' like the.

Phonics

A method of teaching children to read and write the English Language. It teaches children that the sounds of English are represented by letters or groups of letters

Phonemes

The smallest unit of sounds in a word represented by letters or groups of letters.

Segmenting

To write or spell a word by listening for the sounds in the word and deciding which letters represent those sounds. We say you blend to read and segment to spell.

Shared reading

A teacher reads and discusses a text with the whole class, demonstrating how to be a good reader.

Sight words

Words you need to learn by sight because they cannot be easily sounded out.

Sounding out

To say the individual sounds that make up a word.

Synthetic phonics

Synthetic Phonics is a way of teaching reading. Children are taught to read letters or groups of letters by saying the sound(s) they represent – so, they are taught that the letter m sounds like mmmm ... when we say it. Children can then start to read words by blending (synthesising) the sounds together to make a word.

If you are ever unsure of any terms that are being used then please do come and ask.

*Taken some parts from Oxford Owl website.