Supporting you child with reading

Reading is one of the most important things your child will learn to do at school. With your support we aim to help your child to enjoy reading in its own right so that your child will come to love and value reading and books for the pleasure they give but also as a way of finding out independently about everything else in the world.

Reading should never be a chore. With adult support and enthusiasm all children will enjoy the magic of stories and rhymes. Our enthusiasm is vital in getting children to value and enjoy books. Keep reading stories to your child at home. You can start reading to a baby as young as three months and keep reading to them up into their teens.

Your job is therefore

• To model your enjoyment of reading
• Encourage and praise your child with his/ her reading
• Assist by giving confidence
• Give your child time to practise the skills they have been learning at school

At Donington on Bain your child will have their own reading record. We use this to record our comments about their progress. We really value what you do at home so please do write in this book. We don’t expect you to do so every time you read with your child!
The Jolly Phonics Actions

s Weave hand in an s shape, like a snake, and say ssssss

a Wiggle fingers above elbow as if ants crawling on you and say a, a, a

t Turn head from side to side as if watching tennis and say t, t, t

i Pretend to be a mouse by wriggling fingers at end of nose and squeak i, i, i

p Pretend to puff out candles and say p, p, p

n Make a noise, as if you are a plane – hold arms out and say nnnnnn

c k Raise hands and snap fingers as if playing castanets and say ck, ck, ck

e Pretend to tap an egg on the side of a pan and crack it into the pan, saying eh, eh, eh

h Hold hand in front of mouth panting as if you are out of breath and say h, h, h

r Pretend to be a puppy holding a piece of rag, shaking head from side to side, and say r

m Rub tummy as if seeing tasty food and say mmmmmmm

d Beat hands up and down as if playing a drum and say d, d, d

g Spiral hand down, as if water going down the drain, and say g, g, g

o Pretend to turn light switch on and off and say o, o; o, o

u Pretend to be putting up an umbrella and say u, u, u

l Pretend to lick a lollipop and say ll llll

f Let hands gently come together as if toy fish deflating, and say ff, ff, ff

b Pretend to hit a ball with a bat and say b, b

ai Cup hand over ear and say ai, ai, ai

j Pretend to wobble on a plate and say j, j, j

oa Bring hand over mouth as if you have done something wrong and say oh

ie Stand to attention and salute, saying ie ie

ee or Put hands on head as if ears on a donkey and say eey-ore, eey-ore
z Put arms out at sides and pretend to be a bee, saying zzzzz

w Blow on to open hand, as if you are the wind, and say wh, wh, wh

ng Imagine you are a weightlifter, and pretend to lift a heavy weight above your head, saying ng, ng

v Pretend to be holding the steering wheel of a van and say vvvvv

oo oo Move head back and forth as if it is the cuckoo in a cuckoo clock, saying u, oo; u, oo. (short (as in good) and long (as in boom) oo.)

y Pretend to be eating a yoghurt and say y, y, y

x Pretend to take an x-ray of someone with a camera and say ks, ks, ks

ch Move arms at sides as if you are a train and say ch, ch, ch

sh Place index finger over lips and say shshsh

th th Pretend to be naughty clowns and stick out tongue a little for the th, and further for the th sound (this and thumb)

qu Make a duck’s beak with your hands and say qu, qu, qu

ou Pretend your finger is a needle and prick thumb saying ou, ou, ou

oi Cup hands around mouth and shout to another boat saying oi! ship ahoy!

ue Point to people around you and say you, you, you

er Roll hands over each other like a mixer and say errrr

ar Open mouth wide and say ahhh
Supporting your child with early writing

Below are a list of ideas for promoting and practising both letter formation and phonics at home:

- Bending and forming playdough into letter shapes.
- Baking cookies in different letter shapes.
- Painting on an outside wall using water and a brush.
- Large chalks on a chalk board or the ground outdoors.
- Mark making with charcoal from the tip of a burnt stick.
- Writing letters with your fingers in shaving foam, flour, sugar, sand.
- Using foam letters or magnetic letters in the bath/on the fridge.
- Finger painting to practise letter formation.
- Using our arms and hands to write huge letters in the air.
- Making letters or cards to post to family members and friends.
- Using a computer to practise phonics skills/finding capital letters.
- Creating letters with our bodies on the floor and taking photographs.
- Using everyday objects such as cutlery, shells, pebbles to make letters.
- Practise letters learnt so far using taught songs and actions.
- Play word recognition snap by writing words on cards and turning them over to match up and read them.
- Playing simple games such as eye spy or ask children if they can see something beginning with a particular letter sound.
- Use magnetic letters or flash cards to build and sound out words.
- Put items in a box, as your child to pick one out and tell you what sound it begins with.
- Think up different words that rhyme or words that begin with the same letter and make silly sentences together.