

Executive Headteacher Mrs J Shorrocks  
[northbrookpa.org](http://northbrookpa.org)

Dear parents/carers,

We have recently made some exciting changes and improvements to the way we teach reading across the school and we are really pleased to inform you that Northbrook Primary Academy now follows the 'Read, Write Inc' phonics programme. This is an approved progressive phonic scheme that aims to teach children to read as quickly as possible, starting in Reception class and being delivered throughout school until children are 'fluent' and confident readers.

The Read, Write Inc progression begins with every child being taught daily, in small groups, to read the 'sounds' in words and understand the way these sounds can be written down, learning different ways to remember these sounds and letters as well as also learning to read more 'tricky' words. This system continues until each child is well practised and remember fluently all the different letter sounds and is able to recognise them quickly to read words. Alongside these teaching sessions, children are also taught to apply these sounds to read their own stories, poems and information books and talk about what they are reading, developing their word reading, understanding and comprehension skills.

Teaching the 'nut and bolts' of reading is crucially important, but we also place a huge amount of importance on developing, in our children, a lifelong love of reading, giving them lots of opportunities to read and share a wide range of gorgeous and interesting books. With this in mind we have also made a huge investment in our 'reading for pleasure' offer throughout school, allowing to access a range of new books for home reading, especially those in Key Stage Two who have transitioned off our phonic scheme.

We know that continual and consistent practice is essential and we ask that you continue to support your child at home on their reading journey.

Those children following the Read Write Inc phonics scheme and able to blend together individual sounds, will bring home ...

**A paper story book**

(a book they've read in school)

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**a book bag book**

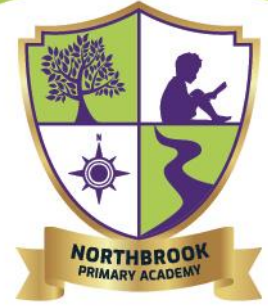
(an unseen story with similar phonic patterns)

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**reading for pleasure book**

(bed time story to share at home)

In the early years of the scheme the book cycle is based on three days. Once a paper story book has been shared in three sessions at school, it will be time for the book to be shared with parents/carers and will be sent home for your child to read. There will not be a fixed day of the week for this, so please ensure all books come back into school each day. As children progress and advance through the programme, the book cycle becomes every five days. As before, there will not be a fixed day of the week for this, so please ensure all books come back into school each day. It will be made very clear to you which cycle your child is working within.



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As your child transitions away from the phonic based program and can read fluently without the reliance on phonics (usually in lower key stage two) they will be able to choose one of our new books from our reading for pleasure library in Key Stage Two. We have listened carefully to the opinions and views of the children around our home reading offer. Children expressed how they would like to see a variety of books to read at home and the chance to read up to date books as a oppose to the more traditional 'reading scheme' books. Therefore, we have purchased fifty brand new age related and recommended books, for each year group which will now form our home reading provision. Most of the books are chapter books, so although we know these will take a little longer to read at home, we would still like the children to bring their books and records in every day, as we will listen to children read these in school. When children have finished their books, they will be given an opportunity to choose another text from the collection. There will be no set day for changing books, adults in school will ask, encourage and remind children to change their book but we are expecting that children in Key Stage Two will take responsibility for this and know when they have completed a book and it is ready for a change. We are asking that you still listen to your child read and that you do note this down in the record as you currently do.

Part of our teaching around reading in school, is the importance of looking after and respecting books and we ask that you support us, by encouraging this at home. We ask that that each week the books are shared, enjoyed and returned to school in good condition. The aim is that every child will have the opportunity to take home a variety of different books to enjoy, so it is essential that all these new books are returned and kept in a lovely condition ready for exchange. We are sure you can appreciate, all these lovely new books have come at a great cost to school, a cost that we see as an investment in this and future generations of our Northbrook family. Therefore, if any of the books are not returned in the condition which they are sent home, there will be a cost for replacing them. Books will be charged at £6 per book damaged.

We are really excited and proud of not only the investment made, the quality of materials and teaching we offer and, we hope that you enjoy the experience of reading at home and that of course all our children become proficient readers whilst nurturing a love of books and reading. We want to of course involve you in this process and so would love to invite you in to school to learn more about how you can help support your child at home with their phonic and reading journey. Dates for our phonics workshops will be after Easter.

New books will start being sent home by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. If you have any questions about reading, please speak to Mrs Spence or Miss Sharrock.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Spence

Miss Sharrock

English Leader

Early Reading Leader