



Reading at MGIS

In July 2021, the government released a new reading framework outlining some key changes with how phonics and reading will be taught in schools. These changes place more emphasis on children reading for pleasure, developing a love of reading and children only reading books which match their phonic knowledge.

How do these changes affect MGIS?

Essential Letters and Sounds

We have now started using a new phonics scheme in Reception and Year 1 called Essential Letters and Sounds. This scheme is similar to the previous scheme used in school but provides more consistency across Reception and Year 1 as well as ensuring that all reading books link directly to the children's phonic knowledge.

What will my child read at home?

Decodable books

Children are now required to read books that contains sounds and words that the children have already learnt in school. Each Friday, your child will be allocated a fully decodable eBook on their Oxford Owl account. There will be no unfamiliar sounds and words and are designed for children to be able to read more independently. Oxford Owl will replace Bug Club and you will receive new login details in due course.

Children should read the decodable book **3** times. The first time they read the book, they will sound out and blend to read words. The second time, they should read fluently, recognising words by sight. The third time they read, they should begin to use expression and answer questions about the book. There are ideas of questions you could ask your child on the back cover of each book eBook.

Reading for pleasure

At MGIS we want all children to develop a life long love of reading. This begins with children enjoying and listening to a range of high quality stories. Each day, your child will bring home a story book of their choice and return the next day. This is for you to share with your child and enjoy reading together. They might be able to spot sounds/words they know or join in with repetitive or familiar phrases.

Children will no longer be bringing home a colour banded reading book or a word bag as neither of these link directly with Essential Letters and Sounds. The fully decodable book will replace the colour banded books. Children's reading will be assessed through their phonic knowledge, NOT through colour bands.

If you have any questions regarding phonics/reading, please email Miss Pinfield on chestnut@meath-green-infant.surrey.sch.uk