

My Journey to Reading Fluency - Year 2

National Curriculum Expectations for Year 2:

When your child enters year 2 in September, they will have completed phase 5 so they will now focus on the following the *National Curriculum* objectives for word reading. They will:

- *continue to apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words until automatic decoding has become embedded and reading is fluent*
- *read accurately by blending the sounds in words that contain the graphemes taught so far, especially recognising alternative sounds for graphemes*
- *read accurately words of two or more syllables that contain the same graphemes as above*
- *read words containing common suffixes (letters placed at the end of a word, for example: est or ly)*
- *read further common exception words*
- *read most words quickly and accurately, without sounding and blending, when they have been frequently encountered*
- *read aloud books closely matched to their improving phonic knowledge, sounding out unfamiliar words accurately, automatically and without undue hesitation*
- *reread these books to build up their fluency and confidence in word reading*

We will be working on improving our 'fluency' when reading this year:

If someone is fluent in speaking another language or in playing an instrument, there's a smooth, graceful and easy quality to it. The same is true with reading skills.

Reading fluency is a child's ability to read a book or other text correctly, quickly, and with expression. A fluent reader doesn't have to stop and "decode" each word.

Rather, most of the words can be read automatically. This means the reader can focus their attention on what the story or text means. For that reason, fluency is critically important — it is the bridge between decoding words and understanding what has been read.

At the end of Year 2, to be considered a fluent reader and therefore reach the 'expected standard' for reading, there is an expectation that your child should be able to read approximately:

90 words per minute.

If you need any further help or information on supporting your child's reading journey, please don't hesitate to ask!



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What can I do?

- Listen to your child read for at least ten minutes per day. The more practise they have at applying their reading skills, the more fluent they will become. Take the time to read their school reading book with them and make sure this is regularly changed. You can comment on their progress and see the teacher's comments in their reading record.
- "Buddy" read with your child. Another easy way to help your child develop their fluency is to simply take it in turns to read aloud. You go first, as your reading provides a model of what good fluent reading sounds like. Then, ask your child to re-read the same page you just read. This is called "**echo reading**" and will be the way that we teach reading fluency in school in Year 2. You'll notice that your child's reading will start to sound more and more like yours. Do this for several pages. Once your child is comfortable enough, and familiar enough with the book, take turns reading page for page.
- Re-read their favourite books. Encourage your child to reread favourite books over and over again. With each reading, you may notice your child reading a bit easier, a bit faster, and with a bit more confidence and expression.

- Make an audiobook! Another fun way to practise reading and build fluency is to help your child create their own audio books. This can be done simply with an audio recording feature or app on your phone. Or, use something more sophisticated where a user can create an electronic storybook and record audio to accompany it. Sharing your audio recordings with family and friends is a great motivator!

Reading for pleasure

Sharing books and talking about them with your child at this stage is still so vitaly important to model what fluent reading looks like and to encourage a lifelong love of reading.

Your child will visit our school library every fortnight and have the opportunity to pick an exciting book to read at home. These books are intended to be read by an adult to encourage a love of reading and expose them to language beyond their reading ability.



If you need any further help or information on supporting your child's reading journey, please don't hesitate to ask!