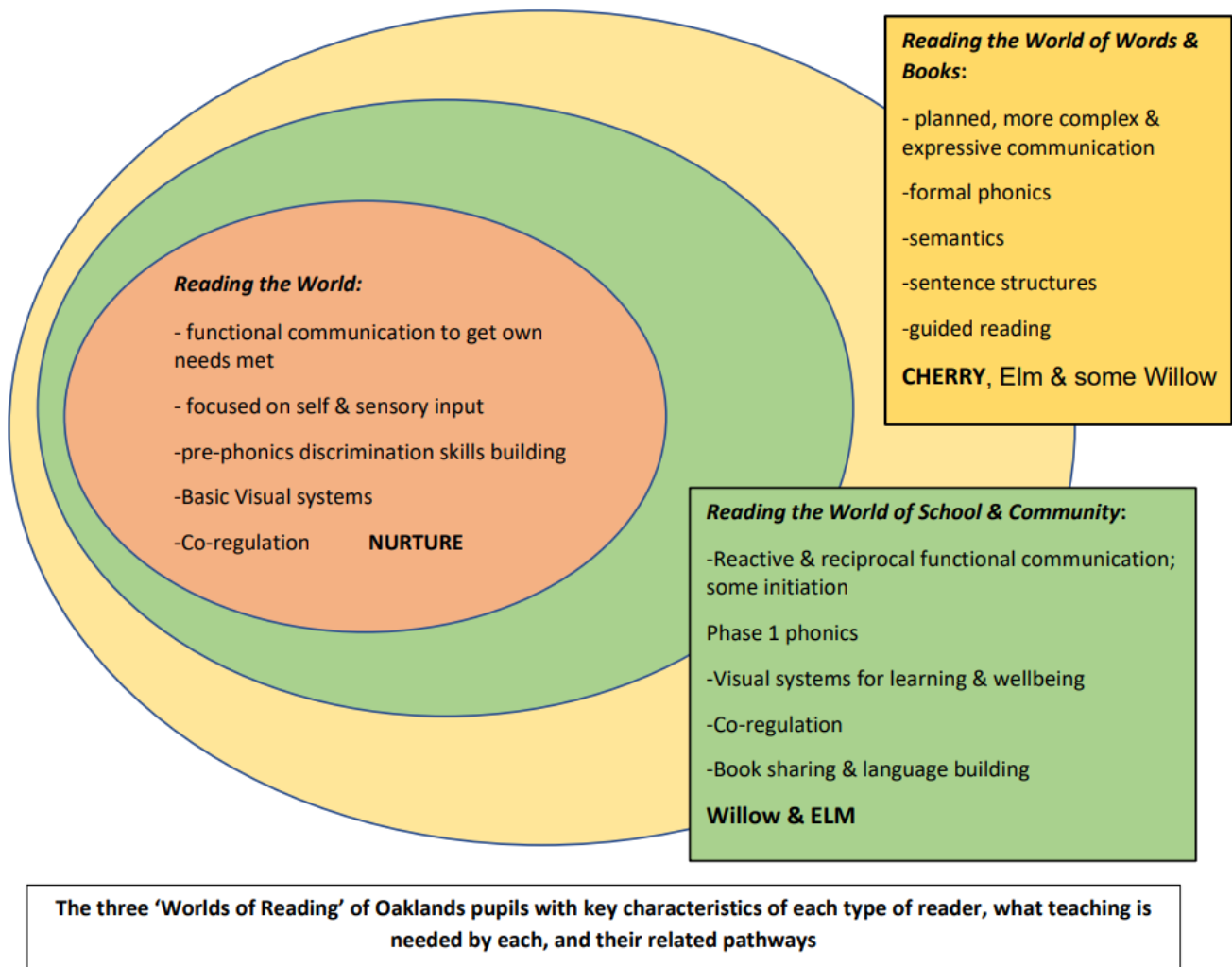




Our 'Three Worlds' Approach to Reading

We believe that every Oaklands' pupil IS a reader when they join our school. This is because we see reading as 'making meaning from cues, signs and those around us in the world'. Reading the world is something we do from the moment we are born and we never stop learning how to read our world more effectively and fluently. For example, all Oaklands staff have regular professional development sessions so that we can become even better at reading and understanding what our unique pupils are telling us with their actions and behaviours.

Reading The World of School-

When children join Oaklands we support them to feel safe and be able to learn in school by helping them to read the classroom and school building. We read out loud our own actions (such as hanging up our coat or using the more button) so that they can see what happens when a trusted adult can read the world of school fluently. Children are taught to read their timetables and key visuals to understand key routines. This means their emotional regulation is strong and they can access learning, and make good progress.

Reading The World of Community-

When pupils are settled in school, we support them to extend their reading skills on educational visits in the community. This includes developing road safety awareness through learning to read and react appropriately to road signs, and become aware of others around us, including strangers and animals.

Adults supporting visits use key phrases every time to ensure that children will learn the rules of road safety and be able to be more independent in keeping themselves safe in the future.

Reading The World of Words & Books- As we have developed our teaching of pre-reading skills like sound discrimination and recognising and building on patterns, we have seen that more & more Oaklands pupils are ready to learn to read through Phonics. We use the Little Wandle scheme (which is approved by the DfE) and which has useful resources for staff and families, as well as enjoyable books matched to children's levels of phonemic knowledge. This means that as soon as pupils have mastered how to sound out s/a/t/p/i/n phonemes, they can begin to read full words and books.

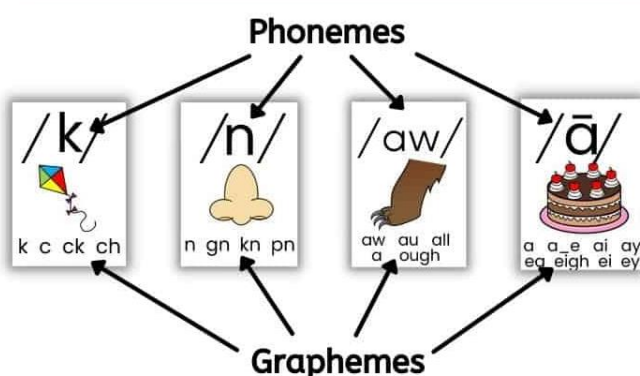
With skilful teaching by class teams, we are seeing pupils within selected Willow classes and all Elm & Cherry classes making great progress in reading fluently and with increasing independence. We track how well children are remembering the sounds through frequent short phonics flashcard & 'tricky word' sessions, followed by longer guided reading, where 2-5 pupils will focus on the same book matched to their skill level. Pupils first practice the key phonemes and words within the book until they can sound them out confidently, and then they take turns to read through the book. In the 2nd guided reading session on a new book, adults will model reading with speed and meaning to develop pupils' speech and 'prosody', giving the correct expression and feeling to words.

The third and final session on a book, is about reading comprehension- ensuring that pupils can understand what is happening in a text and can answer questions about characters, events or information if the book is non-fiction.

In this way we can check carefully if pupils have mastered the sounds (phonemes) and can read them in different written forms (graphemes) as well as see how their wider understanding is developing. English is a very phonemically irregular language so we teach 'tricky' words that don't fit into phonemic rules or are needed to read full sentences like *she*, *and*, *they* and *the*.

WHAT IS A GRAPHEME?

The written representation of phonemes. English has around 250 graphemes.



Want to find out more about phonics?

- 3min Youtube video explaining what phonics is:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_6Jb0-3qz8

- <https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Do you want to learn more about how we teach Literacy at Oaklands, including phonics?

Please come to our parent workshops:

- ✓ Cherry & Elm specific Thursday February 26th
- ✓ Nurture & Willow specific Tuesday March 10th