

## Cook's Log

### Principal News

I wanted to share this information on one of the most important elements of teaching reading that you can help your child with at home:



#### What is phonics?

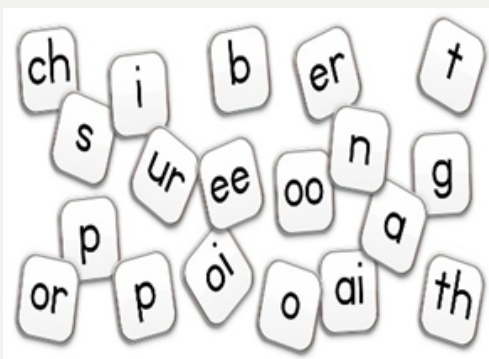
Phonics includes linking sounds (called 'phonemes') to their corresponding letters (called 'graphemes'). Students read words by recognising the relationships between written symbols and their corresponding sounds.

#### Why is phonics instruction important?

Research and evidence show that phonics instruction is a highly effective way to teach children to read. It helps them develop decoding skills (translating printed words into speech), which assist in reading unfamiliar words. Phonics gives many children the tools to figure out new words and understand spelling patterns, building their reading fluency and comprehension.

#### How is phonics taught at school?

The key elements of phonics are:



1. Phonemes: the smallest units of sound in speech (e.g., the sound /k/ in 'cat').
2. Graphemes: the letters, or groups of letters, that represent these sounds (e.g., the letter 'c' in 'cat').
3. Blending: combining individual sounds together to read a word (e.g., /c/ /a/ /t/ = 'cat').
4. Segmenting: breaking down words into their individual sounds to spell them (e.g., chat = /ch/a/t).

Phonics is taught through a structured, sequential approach where children learn the simplest sounds (such as /s/, /a/, and /t/ and gradually move to more complex sound-letter patterns (such as /ee/, as in the sound in the word 'bee' and /oa/ as in the sound in the word 'cloak'. This is known as teaching using a systematic, synthetic phonics approach. In simple terms, children learn different sounds, then practice blending sounds together to read words.

**How can families support phonics learning at home?** Learning to read takes time, encouragement and support, and each young person progresses at their own pace. It's important to celebrate small achievements in progress, and encourage children to keep trying, even when it's challenging for them. When children enjoy learning, they are more likely to stay motivated, which helps them develop a strong foundation in reading. Making phonics practice fun is key to keeping children engaged and motivated. Here are some suggested engaging activities to support phonics development.

\*Pick up one of these game charts from the office to put on the fridge at home

<b>Read together</b> Choose books that interest your child and spend time reading aloud together.	<b>Phonics bingo</b> <a href="#">Create bingo cards</a> with letters, sounds, or words. As you call out the sound (phoneme) or word, children mark it off the corresponding card.	<b>Memory games</b> Use flashcards with letters and images that start with the corresponding sounds on them. Have children turn them over and try to find matching pairs of letters and images e.g. Cc and cat.	<b>I spy</b> Play 'I spy' focusing on sounds and letters. For example, 'I spy with my little eye something that begins with the sound /b/.'
<b>Sand or salt trays</b> Encourage children to trace letters in sand or salt trays while saying the sound.	<b>Playdough letters</b> Encourage children to form letters with playdough and then say the corresponding sound as they make each letter. This can be extended by using the letters to form words and sound them out.	<b>Hopscotch with sounds</b> Draw a hopscotch grid outside, with each square containing a letter. Children hop on the squares and say the corresponding sound of that letter aloud, reinforcing learning with movement.	<b>Phonics songs</b> Find <a href="#">fun phonics songs</a> online that help children remember sounds through repetition and music.
<b>Nursery rhymes and poems</b> Rhyming helps children recognise sound patterns. Encourage them to point out rhyming words and identify the sounds and letters that the rhyming words share.	<b>Sound hunt</b> Ask children to find objects around the house or classroom that start with a certain sound or letter. For example, 'Can you find something that starts with /s/?'	<b>Word hunt</b> Hide cards with letters or words around the room, and have children search for and read them out loud as they find them.	<b>Letter collage</b> Have children cut out pictures from magazines of items that start with a specific sound. They can create a collage for each letter sound.
<b>Phonics jump</b> Write letters on pieces of paper, place them on the floor, and have children jump to the correct sound as you call it out.	<b>Sound labels</b> Label objects around the house or classroom with their phonemes (sounds). For example, place a label on the door with the sound '/d/,' and encourage children to sound it out each time they pass by.	<b>Sound of the day/week</b> Make one sound (phoneme) the 'sound of the day' or 'sound of the week' and encourage children to listen for it in conversation, TV shows, or books over that time period.	<b>Make your own</b> Have fun inventing activities together using sounds and words.



We are also saying goodbye to Mr Wang, our Mandarin Teacher. Shawn is returning to China to be with his family for an indefinite period. He also leaves us at the end of this term. Shawn has been at James Cook Primary School for 6 Years. He has been instrumental in teaching our student the language of mandarin along with organising immersive and engaging Chinese celebration activities. You will be missed Shawn and hope that you will find your way back to us in 2027.

~ Anne

"Phonics instruction is: Beneficial to all, Harmful to none, and, Crucial for some."



ANNE BURGESS  
Principal

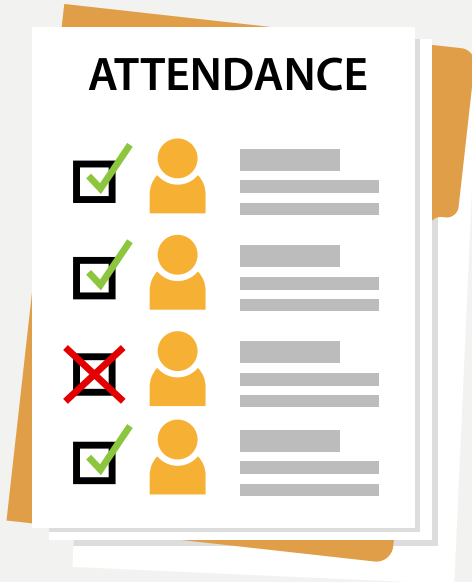
# Goodbye



As I prepare to leave James Cook at the end of this week, I just want to say a heartfelt thank you to this amazing community. Over the past 16 years, I've been incredibly lucky to work with such dedicated staff, wonderful students, and supportive families. You've all played a part in shaping who I am—both professionally and personally—and I'm so grateful for the relationships, memories, and lessons I'll be taking with me. This place has been more than just a workplace; it's felt like home. While I'm excited (and a little nervous!) about the new challenges ahead, leaving James Cook is not easy. Thank you all for being such a big part of my life—it's been an unforgettable journey.

thank  
you

# Class Attendance



## Week 6

Congratulations to:

**Prep**

who had the highest attendance for the week at  
**93.53%.**

## Week 7

Congratulations to:

**2D**

who had the highest attendance for the week at  
**98.82%.**





# Upcoming Events



## SEPTEMBER

<b>Tues 16th</b>	Musical Rehearsals
<b>Wed 17th</b>	Division Athletics School Musical
<b>Fri 19th</b>	Footy Colours Day Last Day of Term 3- 2:30pm Finish

## OCTOBER

<b>Mon 6th</b>	First Day Term 4
<b>Tues 14th</b>	School Council
<b>Tues 28th</b>	Prep - Year 4 Puffing Billy Excursion
<b>Fri 31st</b>	World Teacher's Day



# Students of the Week

Week 5: 18th - 22nd August 2025

## FA

**Donia**

For doing a great job coming up with rhyming words during Literacy. Well done!

**Dash**

For doing a great job using your letter sound knowledge to spell words during writing. Well done!

## 1B

**Elin**

For consistently demonstrating our expected behaviours and doing her best work in every task she attempts. Well done Elin!

**Yusuf**

For showing excellent effort in renaming three digit numbers. Well done Yusuf!

## 1/2C

**Anabia**

For showing resilience and determination in maths. Even when things felt tricky, she pushed through and ended up mastering 20 more and 20 less!

**Elham**

For working hard to meet his maths goal and challenging himself with adding and subtracting 10 by the end of the lesson.

## 2D

**Abeera**

For her terrific effort in using segmenting and blending skills with graphemes and phonemes to spell tricky words.

**Matej**

For generating creative ideas that make your narrative engaging and trying to include more descriptive words in your writing.

## 3A

**Crizia**

For her terrific effort in improving her decoding strategies and reading texts with greater accuracy.

**Atarangi**

For her consistent focus and attention during our musical practice. Keep it up!

## 4B

**Jaden**

For coming to school with a positive attitude and making good choices. Keep it up!

**Lily**

For her fantastic enthusiasm and effort with her book week costume, well done!

## 5A

**Hania**

For her outstanding cold write text showcasing a deep understanding of all the key elements of a narrative text.

**Liam**

For taking responsibility towards his learning and completing tasks on time. Well done Liam!

## 5/6B

**Dylan**

For his enthusiasm towards his learning and for always being up for a challenge.

**Elizabeth**

For her positive attitude towards her work.

## Art

**Selah (56B)**

For showing creativity and outstanding skills with her plasticine picture.

**Adriana (3A)**

For taking the initiative to put equipment away and help others in the art room.

## Mandarin

**Fatima (3A)**

For showing great engagement in her Mandarin tasks.

**Aarona (56B)**

For being super productive in his Mandarin learning.



# Students of the Week

Week 6: 25th -29th August 2025

## FA

**Aaliyah**

For doing a great job creating an AAB pattern necklace in Maths. Well done!

**Nyssa**

For doing a great job in your reading and using your letter sound knowledge to read new words. Well done!

## 1B

**Daanish**

For showing excellent mathematical thinking by linking multiplication sentences to repeated addition! Keep up the great work!

**Fathima**

For her fantastic effort and improvement in her reading. Fathima has shown excellent growth in reading high frequency words. Well done!

## 1/2C

**Eleya**

For his persistence and enthusiasm during musical practice. Keep up the great work!

**Setayesh**

For her fantastic engagement and commitment during musical practice. Well done!

## 2D

**Dina**

For applying self-monitoring strategies and expression with her reading. Keep it up Dina!

**Rossana**

For showing fantastic engagement and focus during our musical rehearsal. Well done!

## 3A

**Eric**

For showing excellent mathematical thinking and explaining his thought processes during our placevalue tasks. Well done!

**Elizah**

For her consistent focus and effort in class especially in her creative writing and musical rehearsals.

## 4B

**Mahdia**

For her vast improvements to her reading and comprehension skills. Keep it up!

**Mehdi**

For demonstrating skills and improvement with his narrative writing. Well done!

## 5A

**Marko**

For demonstrating efforts to strengthen his division skills using a variety of strategies learned. Well done Marko!

**Shrihan**

For demonstrating greater independence and self discipline towards finishing his tasks.

## 5/6B

**Saad**

For his fabulous sentence describing a number pattern in Maths.

**Hania**

For always being a kind and helpful member of our class.

## Art

**Devansh (1B)**

For his focus during Art and creativity in his plasticine and clay work.

## Mandarin

**Oliver (3A)**

For showing excellent engagement in Mandarin tasks.

**Selah(56B)**

For being always responsible and productive in Mandarin.



KEEP UP  
• the good •  
WORK

# Students of the Week

Week 7: 1st -5th September 2025

## FA

**Maddie**

For doing a great job segmenting words during our reading activities. Well done!

**Husnaa**

For consistently showing kindness to her peers when she can see that they need help. You are such a great friend to others. Well done!

## 1B

**Thomas**

For increasing his confidence in identifying ways to make and rename 3 digit numbers! Keep up the great work Thomas!

**Alejo**

For increasing his comprehension of stories by showing wonderful expression during guided reading groups. Well done Alejo!

## 1/2C

**Brody**

For doing a great job helping the prep students with their reading. Well done!

**Emma**

For showing kindness to your peers in the classroom and playground. Well done Emma!

## 2D

**David**

For his growing confidence with his maths strategies and solving worded problems more independently. Great work!

**Sara**

For uplevelling her writing and oral responses with descriptive words and using context clues to show strong comprehension. Well done!

## 3A

**Kahtana**

For her focus and engagement in our Maths tasks and assessment. Awesome effort!

**Luka**

For consistently being a good role model to his peers and applying himself to all his tasks.

## 4B

**Kaydence**

For her consistent focus and effort during our musical rehearsals. Well done!

**Jack**

For his progress with his inferential understanding in our literacy tasks. Keep it up!

## 5A

**Bekir**

For demonstrating consistent effort and steady progress in developing his multiplicative skills in Mathematics. Well done!

**Zubidullah**

For demonstrating kindness and providing support to his peers, contributing to a positive classroom environment.

## 5/6B

**Amina**

For always putting in great effort and determination to complete her work.

**Isaac**

For always contributing to class discussions, especially in Maths.

## Mandarin

**Donia (Prep)**

For demonstrating excellent effort on Mandarin tasks.

**Anyang (4B)**

For trying his best to finish all Mandarin tasks.





Everyone will



when we all follow our "Matrix of Expectations."

Let's just 	 <b>Safe</b> Protecting yourself and others	 <b>Responsible</b> Looking after yourself and making good choices	 <b>Respectful</b> Looking after people and property
<b>ALL SETTINGS</b>	We keep our hands and feet to ourselves. We use property and furniture for its correct purpose. We transition in two lines. We tell a staff member if something is wrong. We stay in designated areas.	We return equipment to its rightful place. We put rubbish in the correct bins. We keep all our belongings in their correct place. We follow instructions from staff. We wait quietly when lining up. We ask for help when needed. We admit our mistakes.	We share school property. We wear the correct school uniform. We take turns. We use please, thank you and excuse me. We ask before touching others' belongings. We transition quietly during learning times. We let other out the door before entering.
<b>TOILETS</b>	We give others privacy. We wash our hands with soap. We report problems to a staff member.	We close the door when in use. We flush the toilet. We leave when finished.	We use toilets for their correct purpose. We are quiet. We wait our turn.
<b>LEARNING AREAS</b>	We get permission before leaving. We walk inside. We remain properly seated during learning times.	We have our tools and equipment ready. We are on time. We complete our work on time. We stay on task to reach our goals.	We are quiet during independent learning times. We allow others to stay on task. We wait our turn to speak.
<b>OFFICE</b>	We use the correct doors. We listen to office staff. We sign in and out, when we are late or leaving early. We return to class straight away.	We bring one person only with us to first aid. We sign our mobile phone in and out. We place all payments and forms in the post box.	We wait until the first aid adult invites us in. We enter the office quietly. We wait our turn.
<b>PLAY AREAS / OUTDOORS</b>	We walk on ramps. We stay in the correct play areas. We leave sticks, rocks and stones on the ground.	We move to the Module as soon as the music starts. We ask the yard duty teacher for help if needed. We bring our equipment and belongings in after play.	We discuss, agree to and follow the rules of the game. We accept or decline politely others' playing choices.
<b>ICT</b>	We only use sites on Bookmarks. We use our own log in details. We keep our passwords private. We walk with our Chromebook.	We adhere to the ICT user agreement. We carry our Chromebook as instructed. We return our Chromebook to the charging area. We plug in the charger.	We remove our earbuds when the teacher is giving instructions. We half-close the lid when the teacher is speaking. We keep our hands off the keyboard when the teacher is giving instructions.



## JAMES COOK PRIMARY SCHOOL MATRIX OF EXPECTATIONS

Our goal is to build successful and responsible learners, in a safe and respectful environment.

# Community News

**iROCK**  
MUSIC SCHOOL



James Cook  
Primary School

## IROCK@SCHOOL

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\*\$25 EXCLUDES GST



# Community News



**INDOOR SPORTS**  
SPRINGVALE

**THURSDAY EVENINGS**

**REGISTER NOW FOR**

# **JUNIOR FUTSAL LEAGUE**

**STARTING 9-OCTOBER | 5-A-SIDE** **U10S & U13S | BOYS & GIRLS**

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- Bumper cars
- Bubble Soccer
- Nerf
- Sports

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