







## Parent Edition 1

This year at Gumdale State School, the approach to teaching reading has changed, beginning in the Prep Year. We have adopted a Systematic Synthetic Phonics approach.

Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) is built on the alphabetic principle. It is a structured, cumulative, multi-sensory and evidence-based method of teaching reading whereby students are taught the link between letters and the speech sounds they represent. Our students learn sounds (phonemes) are represented by letters (graphemes). We teach children that phonemes can be blended or 'synthesised' to form words. Systematic Synthetic Phonics is a bottom-up approach in that instruction starts not with whole words but with the most basic sound unit, the phoneme. The reading process involves decoding or 'breaking' words into separate sounds that are blended together to read an unknown word.

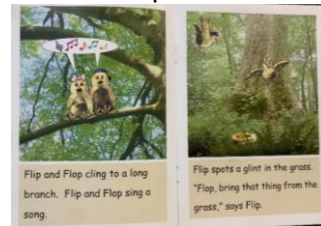
## What to do if I get stuck...



-  Look closely at the word
-  Put your finger under the word
-  Slide your finger
-  Blend the sounds out loud
-  Ask yourself 'Did that make sense?'
-  Re-read the sentence

## Decodable Readers

Our Prep teachers use the Dandelion Series of Decodable Readers in class reading time. Our program is supported by evidence-based research and includes phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary knowledge, fluency and comprehension.



## Tricky Words

Some high frequency words have irregular spelling patterns and cannot be decoded. Tricky words are taught by explicitly teaching children the 'trick'. Eventually, children will learn the 'code' for many of these high frequency words but until then, they are called 'tricky words'. Once we called these words 'sight words' but we now know that when children orthographically map words using sounds, every word eventually becomes a sight word.



***"Explicit teaching of alphabetic decoding skills is helpful for all children, harmful for none, and crucial for some."***

C.Snow and C. Juel (2005)  
Harvard Graduate School of Education.

## Decodable Readers Australia

Gumdale State School has a paid subscription to Decodable Readers Australia. This platform provides an array of reading material for children to practise their developing reading skills at home. Click on the link below to take you to a wonderful video that shows you exactly how to support your child when reading at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQ0rWjWx9M4>