



The results from the synthetic phonics approach to teaching reading and spelling in Prep this year have been outstanding.

We celebrate that our youngest students can, with confidence:

- read through words using their developing sound knowledge without guessing;
- segment and spell words using their developing sound knowledge without copying words from the board;
- represent up to 40 of the 44 sounds of our English language with at least one grapheme;
- read and spell a growing bank of irregular tricky words.

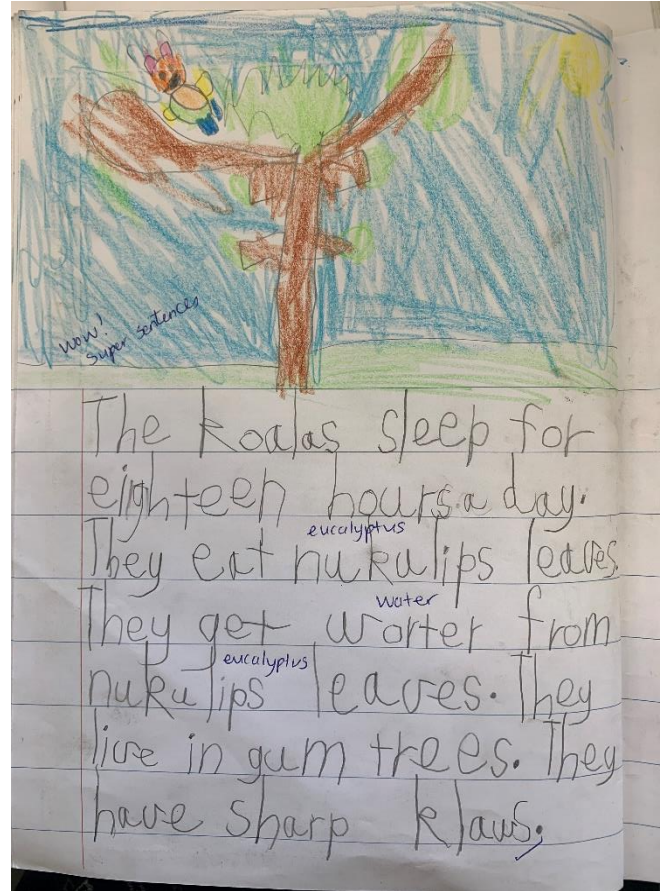
We are so proud of their achievements as a school community!

We look forward to their continuing journey with Synthetic Phonics into Year 1.

Please click on the below link to view an amazing Podcast 'Sold a Story' that clearly explains how the old approach to teaching reading (the whole language approach) took hold throughout the world and, as a result, many children have not had the best opportunity to learn how to read and spell.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/sold-a-story/id1649580473>

**Edition 4**



**Quote to Note:**

"There is no comprehension strategy strong enough to compensate for the fact that you can't read the words."

-Dr. Anita Archer

**A Letter from a GSS Prep Parent...**

*I've been wanting to thank you all year for your AMAZING work on systematic, synthetic phonics at Gumdale. I am so appreciative of the hard work that has gone into transitioning to SSP. My daughter has been gifted the best possible chance of becoming a proficient reader through being explicitly taught the 44 sounds of our language and how to blend them together to form words. I am blown away at how her reading skill has progressed this year and also, her writing and spelling.*

*I am a teacher, (high school English), and it wasn't until 12 months ago after I started some study that I had any idea about the importance of phonics for beginner reading. I felt betrayed somewhat by my initial teacher training provider that I wasn't exposed to the science of reading earlier. It is absolutely critical and I am just so relieved as a parent that my daughter has been gifted the building blocks to continue developing her own lexicon throughout life.*

*The hugest thank you Kristin! This is truly wonderful (and life-changing) work you are doing!*