

Building Blocks

Parents of children in Reception at Grove Road Primary School in Tring were invited to be a 'fly on the wall' in the classroom this month, to observe and support their children. This forms part of the **Building Blocks Programme** developed at Grove Road, which aims to help parents better understand their children's learning journey.

Parents are invited to literacy and mathematics lessons each term, to gain a deeper understanding about what is taught, and why. It's a wonderful insight into how the children learn, and an opportunity to ask questions about how best to support the children at home.

The Literacy Building Blocks session held this month started with learning phonics, which is part of each school day. With a captivating mix of flash cards, rhymes, using letters on magnetic boards and writing in the air, the

group phonics learning is fast-paced, multi-sensory and interactive. Parents were then able to observe the children more closely as they practised their writing and letter formation.

There was also a shared reading session done on the white board, which enabled children to sound out words together, point out 'tricky'

words, use their expression and check their understanding. There were opportunities to predict what might happen next, look out for punctuation and expand vocabulary. A truly engaging session, for parents as well as children!



The way literacy is taught at Grove Road, and how it fits in to the development of communication skills, and other areas of learning, was explained during a session for parents. Afterwards, there were many comments on how useful the Building Blocks morning had been. Parents were delighted to see their children as eager and engaged learners who were having fun in an environment offering such a variety of learning activities.

Katie Collins, Early Years lead and Reception teacher at Grove Road commented "Research shows that children's achievement is closely linked to parental engagement in their

education and as a school we fully support this. It was a delight to welcome our families into the classroom and involve them in their children's learning. The children showed great pride in their work."