

Read Write Inc. Phonics is a method of teaching reading and writing, which is centred around learning the sounds of the letters (phonics) and then blending them together to read words. The children also learn to break down words into individual sounds in order to write them.

When using RWI to read the children will:

- Learn to read effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into understanding what they read.
- Learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter/letter groups using simple picture prompts.
- Learn to read words using Fred Talk.
- Learn to read words by blending the sounds together.
- Read lively stories featuring words they have learnt to sound out.
- Show that they understand the stories by answering 'Find It' and 'Prove it' discussion questions.

When using RWI to write the children will:

- Spell effortlessly so that they can put their energy into working out what they want to write.
- Learn to write the letters/letter groups which represent the 44 sounds (graphemes).
- Learn to write words by saying the sounds in Fred Talk.
- Learn to write simple and then increasingly complex sentences.
- Compose a range of texts using discussion prompts.
- Compose stories based on picture strips.
- Write simple sentences. Blending Children learn to read words by blending the letter sounds that are in the Speed Sound sets. Help your child learn to read words by sound-blending e.g. c-a-t = cat. Help children to say the pure sounds, as quickly as they can and then to blend the sounds together to say the whole word.

Blending

Children learn to read words by blending the letter sounds that are in the Speed Sound sets. Help your child learn to read words by sound-blending e.g. c-a-t = cat. Help children to say the pure sounds, as quickly as they can and then to blend the sounds together to say the whole word.

Set 1 sounds

m a s d t
i n p g o
c k u b
f e l h sh r
j v y w
th z ch qu x ng nk

Set 2 sounds

ay ee igh ow oo oo
or ar air ir ou oy

Set 3 sounds

ea oi a-e i-e ai
o-a o-e ue

Words which can be decoded are called 'Green Words' as they can be deciphered using phonics knowledge. Unfortunately, there are lots of words in the English language that do not follow these rules ... they are called 'Red Words' or tricky words and need to be learned by sight. We use the phrase 'If it's red - it's hard to Fred' to remind children. When faced with an unfamiliar word we use the phrase 'Special friends - Fred talk - Read the word' as this reminds them that it is important to spot the special friends before attempting to read the word. To further consolidate this, we also use 'Alien Words' which are made up words that do not make sense. These words test to see if the children can spot any special friends and that they have good sound knowledge, rather than recognising familiar (or sense) words and using memory rather than reading skills. This technique is also used in the National Year 1 Phonics Check, which will be explained in more detail in the Spring Term.

How can I support my child with reading?

Whilst your child is learning their Set 1 sounds we recommend you only read their 'Reading for Pleasure' library books. This is a book that they are interested in and have chosen to enjoy with you. They can look at the pictures and spot letters or sounds that they know to build confidence but most importantly they should hear you read the book with expression in order to absorb the rich language and vocabulary within in and learn to love story time. As your child progresses through their set 1 sounds we will begin to introduce early reading books to support their new blending skills. We will send this home in their book bags. It is important to note that all children progress at their own speed so please do not be discouraged if your child hasn't received a 'reading book' as soon as some of their peers. It is vital we get this early stage right in order to instil a life long love of reading.

Writing

To help the children with their writing, we use the following rhymes to help them to remember the correct letter formation. It would be most helpful, if you wish to support your child at home with their writing, if you also referred to these rhymes.

<p>a</p>  <p>Around the apple and down the leaf.</p>	<p>b</p>  <p>Down the laces to the heel and around the toe.</p>	<p>c</p>  <p>Curl around the caterpillar.</p>	<p>d</p>  <p>Around the dinosaurs bottom, up his tall neck & down to his toes.</p>	<p>e</p>  <p>Lift off the top and scoop out the egg.</p>	<p>f</p>  <p>Down the stem and draw the leaves.</p>
<p>g</p>  <p>Around the girls face, down her hair and give her a curl.</p>	<p>h</p>  <p>Down the head, to his hooves and over his back.</p>	<p>i</p>  <p>Down the body and dot for the head.</p>	<p>j</p>  <p>Down his body, curl, dot for his head.</p>	<p>k</p>  <p>Down the kangaroo's body tail and leg.</p>	<p>l</p>  <p>Down the long leg.</p>
<p>m</p>  <p>Down Maisie, mountain, mountain.</p>	<p>n</p>  <p>Down Nobby and over his net.</p>	<p>o</p>  <p>All around the orange.</p>	<p>p</p>  <p>Down the pirates plait and around his face.</p>	<p>qu</p>  <p>Round her head, up past her earring, down her hair, and flick.</p>	<p>r</p>  <p>Down the robots back and curl over his arm.</p>
<p>s</p>  <p>Slither down the snake.</p>	<p>t</p>  <p>Down the tower, across the tower.</p>	<p>u</p>  <p>Down and under, up to the top and draw the puddle.</p>	<p>v</p>  <p>Down a wing, up a wing.</p>	<p>w</p>  <p>Down, up, down, up.</p>	<p>x</p>  <p>Down the arm and leg, repeat the other side.</p>
<p>y</p>  <p>Down a horn, up a horn and under head.</p>	<p>z</p>  <p>Zig-zag-zig.</p>				

I will attach our Set One sounds grid to your child's reading record (same as the picture above) and highlight the sounds as your children learn them. This way you can continue to support them at home. If you type into amazon 'RWI set 1 speed sound cards' you can also buy your own copy for £12 if you want to practice more at home.