



October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Read Write Inc

Usually, we would be inviting parents and carers in to school this week to listen to a talk about how we teach children to read via the Read Write Inc. phonics scheme. For obvious reasons, the invite into school cannot happen this year. However, it is important that you have some understanding of the system so that you can also support your child's learning at home. The Read Write Inc. scheme helps children recognise letter symbols and understand the sounds that the letter symbols make. It then supports children with their ability to blend the sounds together so that they can read words. As part of the scheme, the children also learn how to form the letters correctly, using short rhymes to help them. The scheme carries on in Year 1 and then into Year 2 if needed.

We have put together some information below, which we hope you will find useful. You will see there is a weblink which is well worth having a look at in order for you to explore Read Write Inc. more fully from a parent perspective. When teaching phonics, it is really important that children learn the 'pure' sounds of the letters. So, if you only watch one of the videos from the recommended website, please watch the 'how to say the sounds' one as detailed. The only thing we are doing differently this year due to Covid restrictions, is we only group children within their own class in order to tailor their phonics teaching. Usually, to tailor this further, we would group the children across the Reception setting. The children are assessed regularly to check they are keeping up with the Read Write Inc. scheme. It is a huge support to the children if someone at home can also help them too!

There are some Read Write Inc. resources available to buy, that you may be interested in, to further support your child at home. The children have only focussed on the set 1 sounds so far in Reception. The yellow flash card pack has only the Set 1 sounds in. The blue pack has the Set 2 and 3 sounds in it. If you considered the reading and writing kit, the yellow one would be the first one to buy. These resources are available on Amazon but may be available at a cheaper cost elsewhere.



More from Read Write Inc.



Flashcards

Read Write Inc. Phonics Flashcards offer a fun way to introduce the letters and sounds that make up words, using the 'Speed Sounds'. With parent notes offering guidance, these cards are the ideal way to support your child's first steps in learning to read.



Parent Kits

Support your child's learning at home with Read Write Inc. Parent Kits. Three kits are available and include a handbook, flashcards, handwriting practice and lots of reading resources.

If you have any further questions about the Read Write Inc. scheme or how you can help your child at home, then please make an arrangement to speak to your child's class teacher.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Leivers
Assistant Headteacher

Your child is learning to read with **Read Write Inc. Phonics**, a very popular and successful literacy programme.

Your child will learn to read in a very simple way. He or she will learn to:

- Read **letters** by their 'sounds'
- Blend these sounds into **words**
- Read the words in a **story**

How will my child learn to read?

First, your child will learn to read:

- Set 1 Speed Sounds: these are sounds written with one letter: m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v y w z x and sounds written with two letters (your child will call these 'special friends'): sh th ch qu ng nk ck
- Words containing these sounds, by sound-blending, e.g. m-a-t mat, c-a-t cat, f-i-sh fish, s-p-o-t spot, b-e-s-t best, s-p-l-a-sh splash

Second, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 2 Speed Sounds: ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy
- Words containing these sounds

Third, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 3 Speed Sounds: ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure
- Words containing these sounds

Your child will be taught to say the sound for the letter and not the letter name, so 'm' as in 'mat', not 'em'; 's' as in 'sun' not 'es'.

Help your child read the Set 1 Speed Sounds

Before you get going, visit www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/ to practise saying the sounds clearly. The more clearly *you* say the sounds, the more quickly your child will learn them. **Specifically, look for the video called 'Parent video: How to say the sounds'.**

Important: We say 'mmmm' not 'muh' and 'lllll' not 'luh' when teaching the sounds. This really helps children when they learn to blend sounds together to read words.

Help your child write the letters correctly (see the letter formation document that has/will be given to your child in their book bag)

You'll see that each sound is drawn in the shape of a picture. For example:

's' is in the shape of a snake

'd' is in the shape of a dinosaur

'a' is in the shape of an apple

'm' is in the shape of two mountains.



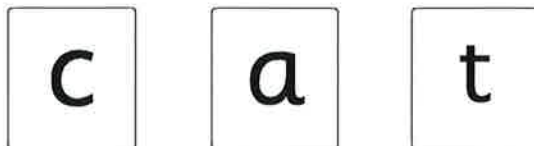
Help your child to read words

Once your child can read Set 1 Speed Sounds confidently, he or she can learn to read words. First, your child is introduced to a toy frog called Fred. Fred can *only* say the sounds in a word and needs your child to help him read the word. So, when you hear your child say 'Fred Talk', you'll know this means sounding out the word.

You can help your child to read words by following these steps:



- Make up a word with three cards (if you have any) or letters, e.g. c-a-t, ickly,



- Point to and say the sounds, and then say the word. Ask your child to copy you.
- Muddle up the cards. Ask your child to make the word again, and then point to and say the sounds.
- Repeat with more 3-sound words, including some containing sounds made up of more than one letter, e.g. ch-a-t, sh-i-p, th-i-s.
- Put out three cards or write three letters. This time, ask your *child* to say the sounds.
- Help him or her to blend the sounds into the words, until your child can do it without your help.
- Repeat with some 4-sound words, e.g. f-r-o-g, g-r-i-n, s-t-o-p, j-u-m-p, h-a-n-d, b-l-a-ck.
- Also try this with some alien words (made up words that can be sounded out and blended) – this is a real test of phonic knowledge! e.g. tr-o-p, f-o-sh, e-n-t

