

## Phonics at St Stephen's CE Primary School

At St Stephen's we use Read Write Inc Phonics (RWI) to give your child the best possible start with their Literacy development. Mrs Jackson is our Read Write Inc lead teacher, so if you have questions about RWI, contact school who can refer you to her.

### **What is Read Write Inc?**

Read Write Inc (RWI) is a phonics complete literacy programme which helps **all** children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling. The programme is designed for children aged 4-7.

RWI was developed by Ruth Miskin and more information on this can be found at <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>.

### **How will my child be taught to read?**

We start by teaching phonics to the children in the Reception class. This means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters.

### ***Reading***

The children:

- Learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letters/letter groups using simple picture prompts – see below
- Learn to read words using Fred talk and sound blending
- Read from a range of storybooks and non-fiction books matched to their phonic knowledge
- Work well with partners
- Develop comprehension skills in stories by answering 'Find It' and 'Prove It' discussion questions

### ***Writing***

The children:

- Learn to write and form the letters/letter groups which represent the 44 sounds with the help of fun phrases
- Learn to write words by using Fred Talk
- Learn to build sentences by practising sentences out loud before they write

### ***Talking***

The children

- They work in pairs so that they:
- Answer every question
- Practise every activity with their partner
- Take turns in talking and reading to each other
- Develop ambitious vocabulary

### **Progressing through the stages**

Children in Early Years are introduced to initial sounds. Children then begin to learn how to 'read' the sound in words and how those sounds can be written down. As children progress, they follow the same format as Early Years but will work on complex sounds and read books appropriate to their reading level. Daily sessions of RWI phonics last 30 minutes. Once children become fluent speedy readers, they will move on to the RWI Spelling programme.

**Five key principles underpin the teaching in all Read Write Inc. sessions:**

**Purpose** – know the purpose of every activity and share it with the children, so they know the **one** thing they should be thinking about

**Participation** – ensure every child participates throughout the lesson. Partnership work is fundamental to learning

**Praise** – ensure children are praised for effort and learning, not ability

**Pace** – teach at an effective pace and devote every moment to teaching and learning

**Passion** – be passionate about teaching so children can be engaged emotionally.

**Children will be taught how to read as follows:**

Before you start to teach your child, practice saying the sounds below. These are the sounds we use to speak in English. Children initially begin using pictures for each sound, this will help children recognise the sound and then form the shape of the sound.

**Fred Talk**

We use **pure sounds** ('m' not 'muh', 's' not 'suh', etc.) so that your child will be able to blend the sounds into words more easily.

At school we use a puppet called Fred who is an expert on sounding out words! we call it, 'Fred Talk'. E.g. m-σ-p, c-a-t, m-a-n, sh-σ-p, b-l-a-ck.

**RWI Set 1, 2 and 3**

**The children are taught the sounds in 3 sets.**

**Step 1:**

**Set 1 Sounds** are taught in the following order together with rhymes to help children form the letters correctly and instantly recognise sounds ready for blending.

Speed Sounds Set 1

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

Speed Sounds Set 2

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

Speed Sounds Set 3

ea	oi			
a-e	i-e	o-e	u-e	aw
are	ur	er	ow	ai
oa	ew	ire	ear	ure

**At this stage we do not use the letter names**

**Step 2:**

The children are then taught **Set 2 Sounds** - the long vowels. When they are very confident with all of set 1 and 2 they are taught **Set 3 Sounds**.

**Set 2 Speed Sounds**

Sound	Phrase	Words to practice reading and spelling
ay	ay: may I play	play, day, may, way, say, spray
ee	ee: what can you see	see, three, been, green, seen, sleep
igh	igh: fly high	high, night, light, fright, bright, might
ow	ow: blow the snow	blow, snow, low, show, know, slow
oo	oo: poo at the zoo	too, zoo, food, pool, moon, spoon
oo	oo: look at a book	took, look, book, shook, cook, foot
ar	ar: start the car	car, start, part, star, hard, sharp
or	or: shut the door	sort, short, horse, sport, fork, snort
air	air: that's not fair	fair, stair, hair, air, chair, lair
ir	ir: whirl and twirl	girl, bird, third, whirl, twirl, dirt
ou	ou: shout it out	out, shout, loud, mouth, round, found
oy	oy: toy for a boy	toy, boy, enjoy

**Set 3 Speed Sounds**

Sound	Phrase	Words to practice reading and spelling
ea	Cup of tea	clean, dream, seat, scream, real
oi	Spoil the boy	join, voice, coin
a-e	Make a cake	make, cake, name, same, late, date
i-e	Nice smile	smile, white, nice, like, time, hide

o-e	Phone home	home, hope, spoke, note, broke, phone
u-e	Huge brute	tune, rude, huge, brute, use, June
aw	Yawn at dawn	saw, las, dawn, crawl, paw, yawn
are	Care and share	share, dare, scare, square, bare
ur	Nurse with a purse	burn, turn, spurt, nurse, purse, hurt
er	A better letter	never, better, weather, after, proper, corner
ow	Brown cow	how, down, brown, cow, town, now
ai	Snail in the rain	snail, paid, tail, train, paint, rain
oa	Goat in a boat	goat, boat, road, throat, toast, coat
ew	Chew the stew	chew, new, blew, flew, drew, grew
ire	Fire! Fire!	Fire, hire, wire, bon/fire, in/spire, con/spire
ear	Hear with your ear	hear, dear, fear, near, year, ear
ure	Sure it's pure	pure, sure, cure, pic/ture, mix/ture, ad/ven/ture

### Nonsense words (Alien words)- What 'a load' or nonsense!

As well as learning to read and blend real words children will have plenty of opportunities to apply their sound recognition skills on reading 'Nonsense words'. These words will also feature heavily in the Year One Phonics Screening check in the summer term. These words provide endless opportunities for children to apply and practice their thinking in a range of different contexts.

#### **Step 3:**

Within all the RWI sessions/books children will be exposed to **red** and **green** words to learn to help them to become speedy readers. **Red** words are words that are not easily decodable and challenge words to extend children's vocabulary. **Green** words are linked to the sounds they have been learning and are easily decodable.

Dots and dashes represent the sound each letter makes.

During the RWI session children will read the book three times and at each new reading they will have plenty of opportunities to practise using their developing comprehension skills. You may have heard your child talking about '**hold, edit or build a sentence**'.

**Hold a sentence** is an activity that encourages children to remember a whole sentence while focusing on spelling and punctuation.

**Build a sentence** is to give children the opportunity to create their own sentence to that shows the meaning of a word and edit a sentence allows the children to critique a sentence using their

knowledge of spelling punctuation and grammar. Children complete a longer piece of independent writing, which gives them the opportunity to show off their creativity and to practice their spelling, grammar and punctuation.

### **To help at home:**

Your child will start to bring books home when they are confident readers, relating to their reading stage. You will find they will bring home a phonics-based book; this will aid application, speed and fluency- developing speedy reading! Following on from this, they will bring home a library book, to develop their interest in and a love of reading.

### **Useful websites for Parents**

Please find a list of websites that you may find useful in helping you and your child learn about phonics. Games and fun activity websites are also included.

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/> - Information and resources to support phonics learning at home

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/> - fun games for the children to play

[BBC Bitesize](#) - many games to play covering all areas of the curriculum