

Read Write Inc.
Phonics



Read Write Inc
Parent Information Booklet



What is RWI Phonics?

Read Write Inc. is a government backed phonics scheme designed by Ruth Miskin, which through systematic teaching and consistent routines, enables children to achieve high levels of reading success. At South View Community Primary School we believe that reading is the key to all learning and we are fully committed to making sure that every child is a reader by the end of KS1.



Who Teaches RWI Phonics?

We have a dedicated team of Teachers and Teaching Assistants who have all received accredited RWI training and they are referred to as RWI Tutors. They are passionate about achieving success and take part in weekly meetings for coaching and training purposes. The scheme is overseen by the RWI leader, who will monitor RWI sessions and ensure that all teaching is high quality and that children are focused and engaged.

How does RWI ensure success?

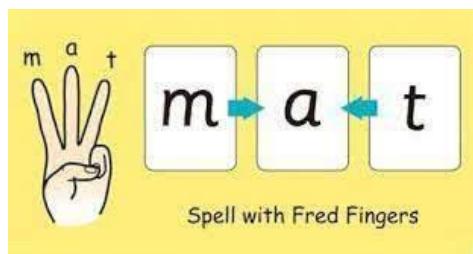
Each child is carefully assessed and placed into a RWI group based on their phonics sound knowledge and reading skills. This ensures that all children are working at the right level for their ability which is the best way to ensure progress and confidence in their reading skills. Your child might not be taught phonics by their own class teacher however all information and session notes are passed on from their RWI Tutor to enable further guidance and support in all subsequent lessons. Groups are assessed every half term (6 weeks) and children are moved accordingly to either accelerate progress or provide further consolidation. Any children who are not making sufficient progress will be given targeted intervention or additional 1:1 support during afternoon sessions. This compilation of rapid acceleration, streamed groupings and targeted support all helps to ensure our children are confident readers by the time they leave Year 2.

How will my child learn to read?

Children are taught the early sounds in Set 1. This covers the alphabet and a few 'special friends' which are two letters which make one sound such as 'sh'. They will learn to spot and recognise them quickly through fun activities and also to write them using 'phrases' to help them remember the correct formation. Tutors teach children 'pure sounds' which can be heard using [this link](#).



Using these simple sounds, children will learn to 'blend' words together so c-a-t becomes cat. To help the children do this, we have a lovely green frog called Fred! He can only talk in sounds so the children put the sounds together to make the word. We call this '**Fred Talk**'. This is also used in early reading, as when children see a new word they can



use 'Fred Talk' to break down the sounds and then say or read the word. Similarly, this supports early writing skills as children use '**Fred Fingers**' to break down a spoken word into its sounds to enable them to write the word. We use the

phrase 'Say the word - pinch the sounds' to help children remember.

When they are confident with blending and know all of their Set 1 sounds, the children will move onto Set 2 sounds and then Set 3 sounds, which introduce alternative spellings for sounds they know and more special friends. They may begin to use '**Fred in their head**' to read more quickly and fluently, which helps to build up speed, however this stage is also tricky for children as they need to be able to spot '**special friends**' easily within new words.

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



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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.

By moving through the carefully designed stages (or colours) of books which consolidate the sounds learned at the right time, children will gain speed and confidence in their reading ability. As reading becomes more fluent, children begin to understand the stories they read and can enjoy the books. As part of the RWI sessions they will read their group books a total of three times; to support learning new speedy green words and more tricky red words, to investigate vocabulary and to build expression known as their '**storyteller voice**'.



They will also complete comprehension activities as part of each book to ensure they know word meanings and can find and retrieve information as well as give opinions about the story or link to other books they know or life experiences.

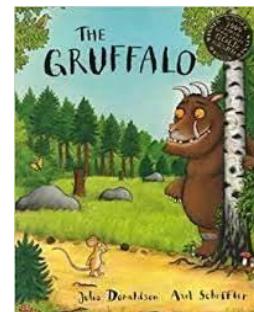
How does RWI link to writing?

After the 30-minute session with their RWI Tutor, children will return to class for a literacy lesson with their teacher. They will explore many different writing activities, building up sentence structures and rehearsing ideas before writing. During this, they will

use the Sound charts to help them identify the correct spelling for a sound and will be taught various spelling strategies within their class to support spelling. They will continue to work on letter formation and investigate grammar and punctuation rules appropriate for their year group. This will enable all children to practice and apply their individual phonics learning throughout the lessons and for class teachers to provide further input.

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 it and learn to love story time.



When your child is learning to blend, they will be given RWI Blending books. To help your child with these, ask them to try to 'Fred Talk' the word and blend it together ... when they turn the page they will see if they were right! Encourage them to sound out carefully using

pure sounds and give lots of praise and support for effort and success. You should also continue to read their library book and encourage them to spot any sounds, special friends or words they know to boost rapid identification by sight.



Once confident in blending, children will begin to receive a RWI book. This is called a Book Bag Book. This will be unfamiliar to your child so read the opening instructions on the front page carefully before reading.

These books allow children to apply their reading skills and are matched to the sounds they have been taught so far. These books should be read at home three times before being returned to school.



In the first read your child will be focusing on reading each word individually and it may seem robotic. In this phase, very little comprehension of the story is likely. In the second read, their word recognition will become quicker allowing a faster pace and better understanding of the story. In the third read, the speed should be much quicker and therefore the child is using more brain power to understand the story rather than on reading each word. This is the point when the story becomes meaningful and pleasurable and they can answer questions based on the content. There are questions at the end of the book to check understanding and promote discussion of the story. Please take the time to complete these activities as there are the early comprehension skills which are built upon throughout school.

Are there any resources I can buy?

Simple activities can be completed to help your child recognise sounds and read or write words, so there is no need to buy any resources for use at home.

Whilst it is not compulsory to purchase any support materials at home, if you do wish to purchase items, we would highly recommend these cards which can be bought from Amazon for less than £5. They will help to reinforce the sounds and pictures used and provide familiar illustrations to aid memory and learning and also come with advice on how to use them and play various games.



We do not ask parents to buy RWI books, however appreciate that other phonics books may be already be available in the home. These are not a problem to use however please bear in mind that the sound knowledge expected in different schemes may not match your child's RWI ability and this may cause some confusion or frustration for your child. If you need more than the two RWI Books already provided, please speak with your child's Class Teacher.

The main resource you can provide your child with are time,

patience and praise, and together we will make sure they are confident readers!