

Dear Parent(s)/Carer,

From the beginning of January we are going to be trialing a different method when teaching RWI phonics. Through recent discussions and a recent development day, Read Write Inc have encouraged us to teach phonics to years 1 and 2 within 'homogenous groups'. Their daily phonics programme has been designed to be taught in this manner and their research evidences the success and progression of children's phonic and reading skills.

Every six weeks the children are assessed on their phonic ability and are placed within a colour band. This colour band corresponds to their current phonics level, and indicates what specifically needs to be taught to them. It provides them with a corresponding RWI book bag book to help them practise reading those sounds.

Homogenous grouping allows the children to be taught on a daily basis within their assessed groups so that their phonic teaching is targeted to their ability and needs. It also provides quicker progression and further supports building confidence in their phonetic decoding skills and reading ability.

Children within years 1 and 2 will be mixed together and attend smaller group sessions, with an adult, in allocated areas around the school to undertake their daily phonics teaching. Please note, Year 2 children will not be receiving their daily phonics session in the Year 1 classroom as we feel this will not be beneficial for their wellbeing and therefore their learning.

We will also be launching the online access to the storybooks they will be learning from and reading within class. This service is provided through Oxford Owl and details regarding login details and how to access the platform will be sent to you in January. The children will continue to receive a RWI book bag book as well as a banded reader and a book to share with their parent (s) to develop their love of reading.

I have included some FAQ from Read Write Inc. for your information.
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind Regards

Joanna Soltau
Reading leader

Read Write Inc

Where else can I find information?

Watch video tutorials on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/> to help you to understand more about Read Write Inc. Phonics and how to help your child read and write at home.

Other useful websites:

Ruth Miskin Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Free e-books for home reading: <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/ruthmiskintrainingedu?mc_cid=63bfb74b56&mc_eid=4ec2ad9cea

Glossary

'Special Friends'

Special friends are a combination of two or three letters representing one sound, e.g. ck, ay, igh, oa.

Fred Talk

Fred the Frog helps children read and spell. He can say the sounds in words, but he can't say the whole word, so children have to help him.

To help children read, Fred (the teacher) says the sounds and then children say the word.

For example, Fred says c-a-t, children say cat, Fred says l-igh-t, children say light.

Teachers are encouraged to use Fred Talk through the day, so children learn to blend sounds.

For example:

Play Simon Says: Put your hands on your h-ea-d/ f-oo-t/ kn-ee.

Put on your c-oa-t/ h-a-t/ s-c-ar-f.

Set the table with a b-ow-l/ f-or-k/ s-p-oo-n.

'Fred in your head'

Once children can sound out a word, we teach them to say the sounds silently in their heads.

We show them how to do this by:

1. whispering the sounds and then saying the whole word;
2. mouthing the sounds silently and then saying the whole word;
3. saying the whole word straight away.

Perfect pencil grip

Children sit at a table to write.

They hold up a pencil in a tripod pencil grip with the non-writing hand flat holding their paper.

How can I support my child's reading and writing?

Here are the top five things you can do.
See the other FAQs for further detail.

1. Ask your child to read the Speed Sound cards speedily.
2. Use Fred Talk to help your child read and spell words.
3. Listen to your child read their *Read Write Inc.* Storybook every day.
4. Practise reading Green and Red Words in the Storybook speedily.
5. Read stories to your child every day.

How can I support my child to learn Set 1 sounds and to blend?

- Use pure sounds, not letter names. Watch the 'how to say the sounds' parent film on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>.
- Watch the 'Reading the stretchy sounds with your child', 'Reading the bouncy sounds with your child' and 'Reading the digraphs with your child' parent films on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/> to see how to teach Set 1 sounds.
- Practise reading known Set 1 Speed Sounds cards speedily. If needed, show your child the picture side of the card to help them remember the sound.

We teach children to read and spell using Fred. He is a toy frog who can say the sounds in words, but not the whole word. Children have to help him.

To help children learn to blend, we say the sounds as Fred and then children repeat the sounds and say the whole word.

Here are two ways you can use Fred Talk at home:

1. Play Fred Games together – see Fred Games document on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>
2. Speak like Fred throughout the day e.g. time for l-u-n-ch! Let's p-l-ay!
3. Watch the 'Sound-blending' parent film on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

How can I support my child to learn Set 2 or 3 sounds?

- Watch the 'Set 2/3 tutoring' film on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>.
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