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Reading and phonics information KS1

How we teach reading – answers for parents

The Read Write Inc. Phonics programme

We have written this for parents. It explains how we teach reading using the *Read Write Inc.* programme.

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

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. Ask them to show you what these are.

The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'.

The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. They start thinking that they *can* read and this does wonders for their confidence.

The teachers read to the children, too, so the children get to know all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps their writing.

How will I know how well my child is doing?

We will always let you know how well your child is doing.

We use various ways to find out how the children are getting on in reading. We use the information to decide what reading group they should be in. Your child will work with children who are at the same reading level as him or her. Children will move to a different group if they are making faster progress than the others. Your child will have one-to-one support if we think he or she needs some extra help to keep up.

We also use a reading test so that we can make sure that all our children are at the level that they should be for their age compared to all the children across the country.

In the summer term, the government asks us to do a phonics check of all the Year 1 children. That gives us extra information about their progress. We will talk to you about how well your child has done, and especially if we have any worries at all.

How long will it take to learn to read well?

By the end of Year 2, your child should be able to read aloud books that are at the right level for his or her age. In Year 3 we concentrate more on helping children to understand what they are reading, although this

work begins very early on. This happens when the teacher reads to the children and also when the children read their own story book.

How do I know the teaching will be good?

All the staff have been trained to teach reading in the way we do it in this school. We believe that it is very important that all the teachers and teaching assistants work in the same way. Senior teachers watch other teachers teaching to make sure that the children are learning in the way we want them to learn.

If you are worried about the teaching or you have any questions, please come to school and talk to us.

What can I do to help? Is there anything that I shouldn't do?

You will be invited to a meeting so that we can explain how we teach reading. Please come and support your child. We would very much like you to know how to help.

Your child will bring different sorts of books home from school. It helps if you know whether this is a book that your child can read on their own or whether this is a book that you should read *to* them. The teacher will have explained which is which. *Please* trust your child's teacher to choose the book(s) that will help your child the most.

Help your child to sound out the letters in words and then to 'push' the sounds together to make a whole word. Try not to refer to the letters by their names. Help your child to focus on the sounds. You can hear how to say the sounds correctly at this link: <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/#lg=1&slide=2>

Sometimes your child might bring home a picture book that they know well. Please don't say, 'This is too easy.' Instead, encourage your child to tell you the story out loud; ask them questions about things that happen or what they think about some of the characters in the story.

We know parents and carers are very busy people. But if you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps him or her to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family. You can find out about good stories to read to your child here: <https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Does it matter if my child misses a lesson or two?

It matters a lot if your child misses school. The way we teach children to read is very well organised, so even one missed lesson means that your child has not learnt something that they need to know to be a good reader.

What if he or she finds it difficult to learn to read?

We want children to learn to read, however long it takes us to teach them. We will find out very quickly if your child is finding reading difficult. First, we move children to a different group, so that we can make sure that they have learnt what they need to know. If they still struggle, we give them extra time with an adult, on their own. These adults are specially trained to support these children. Your child will still be in the same group with the other children and won't miss out on any of the class lessons.

If we have any serious worries about your child's reading, we will talk to you about this.

Some children take a bit longer to learn to put sounds together to read a word, e.g. c-a-t to make the word 'cat'. At our meeting, we will explain how you can help your child to do this.

What if my child turns out to be dyslexic?

The way we teach reading is especially helpful for children who might be dyslexic. This is because we use a very well-organised programme that has a strong focus on phonics. This is very important for children who find learning to read difficult. If you are worried about your child, please come and talk to us.

My child has difficulty pronouncing some sounds. Will this stop him/her learning to read through phonics?

This isn't a problem for learning to read as long as we know what sound the child is trying to say. This is not something to worry about. Many children have a few sounds that they can hear clearly but find it difficult to say, particularly the l-sound, r-sound, w-sound, th-sound, s-sound, sh-sound and j-sound. Often they say a t-sound for the c-sound; "tttssh" for the s-sound; "w" for the r-sound and "r" for the l-sound. You can help your child by encouraging him or her to look at your mouth when you say the sound. Whatever you do, do not make your child feel a failure. They can easily learn to read, even if they find one or two sounds difficult to say.

Reading at home – our top tips for story time

1. Make it a treat – introduce each new book with excitement.
2. Make it a special quiet time – cuddle up!
3. Show curiosity in what you're going to read.
4. Read story once without stopping so they can enjoy the whole story. . If you think your child might not understand something say something like 'Oh I think what's happening here is that...'
5. Chat about the story e.g. I wonder why he did that? Oh no, I hope she's not going to...
6. Avoid asking questions to test what they remember.
7. Link to other stories and experiences you have shared e.g. this reminds me of...
8. Read favourites over and over again – encourage your child to join with the bits they know. Avoid saying 'not that story again!'
9. Use different voices – be enthusiastic!
10. Love the book – read with enjoyment.

Phonics Screening Check

Children complete a word-reading check at the end of Year 1 so that parents can be confident their children are being taught to read successfully. Due to Covid and lockdown, the Year 2 students could not take part in the Phonics Screening Test so the children in Year 2 will be taking it in the second half of the Autumn Term (before Christmas). The Year 1 children will complete this in June 2021.

Children read 40 words. It takes between two and five minutes. Half of the words in the check are real words. Half are nonsense words. For example, 'sheb', 'glight', 'ched', 'teb'. There is a picture of an alien next to each word to remind the children that it isn't a real word. Nonsense words check that children will be able to read sounds they know in unfamiliar words. Children who can read nonsense words will, very soon, be able to read any new word – for example – gargantuan, flailing, raucous, anticipation; Reading new words increases children's vocabulary rapidly.

If they do not manage to read **32** of the words, they are given extra support, and repeat the check at the end of Year 2.

It means that all children will be able to read accurately before they begin Year 3.

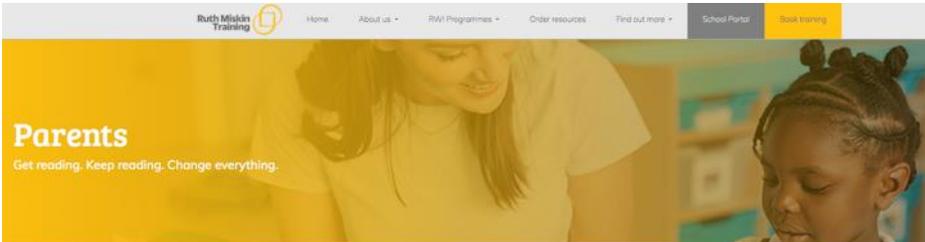
What can you do to help your child to learn to read

1. Use pure sounds, not letter names
2. Use Fred Talk to read and spell words
3. Listen to your child read their Storybook every day
4. Read stories to your child every day

Online Resources

There are free video tutorials on our website – www.ruthmiskin.com

Select 'Find out more' at the top, then 'Parents' from the drop-down list:



The screenshot shows the Ruth Miskin Training website. The navigation bar includes 'Home', 'About us', 'RWI Programmes', 'Order resources', 'Find out more', 'School Portal', and 'Book training'. The main banner features a woman and a child reading together, with the text 'Parents' and 'Get reading. Keep reading. Change everything.' Below the banner, the section is titled 'Read Write Inc. Phonics – information for parents'. The text explains that the films show how children are taught to read and write, and that these films can help parents practice with their children at home. It also provides contact information for Facebook and Twitter. At the bottom, there are six video thumbnails with titles: 'Information for Parents: Understanding Phonics', 'Information for Parents: What is Read Write Inc. Phonics?', 'Information for Parents: How to say the sounds', 'Information for Parents: Why read to your child?', 'Information for Parents: The Phonics Screening Check', and 'Information for Parents: 10 things to think about when you read to your child'.

We're also on Facebook – www.facebook.com/miskin.education

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

Thank you for your continued support,

The KS1 Team

Miss McIntosh, Mrs Ward, Mrs Moynihan and Mrs Young