

## **Read Write Inc. Parent Information**

At St Joseph's, we use a phonics programme called Read Write Inc (RWI). RWI is a method of delivering phonics which focusses on simple and complex sounds, blending sounds together to read and spell words and applying skills across the curriculum. Using RWI supports children to learn how to read fluently and comprehend what they have read. It also helps them sound out words in their writing.

The children are assessed and grouped according to their ability, and they work with a teacher or support staff. The children will not always work with the same member of staff throughout the year as groupings often change based on assessments. Every half term, all children are assessed and are regrouped according to their phonic knowledge and fluency when reading, ensuring no child is left behind.

RWI lessons include reading and some writing activities, allowing the children to apply their phonic skills to both.

### **Reading**

The children will:

- Learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter/letter groups (graphemes) using simple picture prompts.
- Learn to read words using segmenting (Fred talk) and blending.
- Read stories featuring words they have learnt to sound out.
- Show that they comprehend the stories by answering 'Find It' and 'Have a Think' discussion questions.

### **Writing**

The children will:

- Learn to write the letters/letter groups (graphemes) which represent the 44 sounds.
- Learn to write words by saying the sounds individually (Fred fingers).
- Learn to say and write simple then more complex sentences.

### **Speaking and Listening**

Children are assessed so they work with peers at the same level, in groups. This ensures that all children are given the opportunity to participate in lessons.

The children work in pairs to:

- Practice reading with a partner.

- Take turns in reading to each other.
- Follow along with the person reading.
- Give support and praise.

## **Reading**

We begin by teaching the children set 1 sounds in Reception. Children can start blending sounds into words as soon as they know a small group of sounds well. Once the children have been taught the first 5 sounds, they are then taught assisted blending. This means that the member of staff will model blending heavily, and support children to hear sounds and put them together to make a word. We start with blending orally, which progresses to reading the letters and blending them together to read the word.

### Order of teaching sounds

In RWI, the individual sounds are called ‘speed sounds’ – because we want your child to read them speedily. Set 1 sounds are the single letter sounds and set 1 special friend sounds. ‘Special friends’ is a term used to refer to digraphs and trigraphs. This is when two/three letters stick together to make one sound, such as ‘sh’. They are taught in the following order;

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, nk.

After set 1 is embedded well, children move on to Set 2 sounds. There are 12 Set 2 ‘speed sounds’ that are made up of digraphs. When children are taught Set 2 sounds, they will learn:

- a simple picture prompt linked to the sound
- a short phrase to say e.g., may I play
- the letters that represent a sound (special friends) e.g., ay

Each sound has a list of green words linked to it, so that the children can sound out and blend words containing the new sound, for example, s-p-r-ay = spray.

When learning Set 3 speed sounds, in Year 1, the children will be taught alternative sounds/graphemes, e.g., ee as in tree (set 2) and ea as in tea (set 3).

The tables below show each sound and the phrase for set 1 special friend sounds, set 2 and 3 sounds and additional sounds that are taught.

### Set 1 special friends

Sound	Phrase
sh	

th	
ch	
qu	
ng	thing on a string
nk	I think I stink

*Set 2 special friends*

Sound	Phrase
ay	May I play?
ee	What can you see?
igh	Fly high
ow	Blow the snow
oo	Poo at the zoo
oo	Look at a book
ar	Start the car
or	Shut the door
air	That's not fair
ir	Whirl and twirl
ou	Shout it out
oy	Toy to enjoy

*Set 3 Special friends*

Sound	Phrase
ea	Cup of tea
oi	Spoil the boy
a-e	Make a cake
i-e	Nice smile
o-e	Phone home
u-e	Huge brute
aw	Yawn at dawn
are	Care and share
ur	Nurse with a purse
er	Better letter
ow	Brown cow
ai	Snail in the rain
oa	Goat in a boat
ew	Chew the stew
ire	Fire fire!
ear	Hear with your ear
ure	Sure, it's pure

tious/cious	scrumptious/delicious
e	He, me, we, be

### Nonsense words (Alien words)

As children's knowledge builds, they are able to apply their decoding skills to any unfamiliar word, whether it be real or nonsense. During phonics lessons each day children will practice their decoding skills by sounding out nonsense words. This is an important part of the Phonics Screening Check that the children complete at the end of year 1.

### Ditty Books

Ditty lessons are the next step after children can blend confidently. Children who are becoming confident at reading words are introduced to reading short sentences. Once children are able to read the short sentences, they are challenged to use their phonic knowledge to write a short sentence.

### Storybook Lessons

After ditty books, the next stage is storybooks. These books are closely matched to children's ability. The storybooks consist of story green words (words specific to that story), red words and speedy green words (words children should be recognising more quickly). After children have practiced these words individually, they are better prepared to read them fluently in the story.

### **Phonics Screening Check**

The children are assessed at the end of Year 1 using a statutory tool called the Phonics Screening Check. This confirms whether the child has learnt to decode words to an appropriate standard and will identify sounds needing further consolidation in Year 2. The children are assessed one to one by the reading leader, who is a familiar adult to the children. Previous years phonics screenings are available online and are a useful revision tool.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-2023-materials>