

The first stages of helping a child to love reading, is to help them to feel successful. We aim to create an inclusive, inspiring and challenging curriculum, which develops children's knowledge of phonics, allowing them to become successful readers who develop a life-long love of reading. We achieve this through following a carefully designed and prescribed programme of phonics, Read Write Inc (RWI), which is matched to the learning stage of the children. RWI is a programme developed to provide a structured and systematic way of delivering phonics. We follow RWI because, research shows that, when phonics is taught in a structured way – starting with the simple sounds and progressing through to the most complex – it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read.

Children who join us in Reception are taught phonics five times a week for 30 minutes. They are introduced to a character 'Fred the Frog' who can only talk in 'sounds.' This helps the children understand the concept of segmenting words and engage them in the learning. Phonics teaching continues through KS1 and as the children move through the RWI scheme, they are streamlined into different groups. These groups correspond with the level/colour of book the children are currently accessing. Groups could be organised within a year group or mixed year group, depending on the children's reading ability. The sessions include a 'speed sound' section where the children will learn or recap sounds and apply their knowledge with word reading. They will also be taught how to apply these sounds when writing. The second part of the session will be the 'reading book' section where the children will be put in pairs and read a text chosen to support their phonics ability.

The children are assessed every half term by the phonics lead and groups may change according to children's progress. Phonics is taught by both the teaching and support staff, and regular high-quality training is supplied to continuously develop staff in this subject area. The children are sent two phonetically matched texts home per week alongside a third text for parents/ carers to read to them.

By the end of KS1 our aim is that all children have the skills required to become great readers. We want our children to read fluently, be able to understand the vocabulary, make predictions about the text and infer meaning suggested by the author. We want to encourage a love of reading and an interest in exploring both fiction and non-fiction texts that inspire imagination and develop excitement towards learning.