

How we teach reading in EYFS/Key Stage 1

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 Early Years Foundation Stage. 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?

You will notice your child making progress with their reading very early in the programme. 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.

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 how 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?

We run various events during the year to support your child at home.

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:

www.oup.com/oxed/primary/rwi/forparents

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'.

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 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. The message is, that children can learn to read, even if they find some sounds difficult to say. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. We are here to help! You can find out more about Read Write Inc here -<http://www.oup.com/oxed/primary/rwi/forparents/>

Read Write Inc

How can I help my child learn to read?

Read as many stories to your child as you can. Talk about the stories. Explain the meaning of new words. Most importantly though, show the fun that can be gained by listening to stories. What you read to your child today, they will be able to read for themselves very soon.

Please do not use letter names at this early stage. When you are learning to read you only need to know what sounds the letters make, not their names.

Help your child to pronounce 'pure' sounds. This will help them when they come to blend the sounds together in reading.

These first sounds should all be stretched slightly. Try to avoid saying uh after each one, e.g. /mm/ not muh, /ss/ not suh, /ff/ not fuh. m – mmmmmmountain (keep lips pressed together hard) s – ssssssnake (keep teeth together and hiss – unvoiced) n – nnnnnnet (keep tongue behind teeth) f – ffffflower (keep teeth on bottom lip and force air out sharply – unvoiced) l – lllllleg (keep pointed curled tongue behind teeth). r – rrrrrrobot (say rrr as if you are growling) v – vvvvvvulture (keep teeth on bottom lip and force air out gently) z – zzzzzzig zzzzzag (keep teeth together and make a buzzing sound) th – thhhhthank you (stick out tongue and breathe out sharply) sh – shhhh (make a shhh noise as though you are telling somebody to be quiet!) ng – thi nnnnngg on a stri nnnngg (curl your tongue at the back of your throat) nk – l thi nk l sti nk (make a piggy oink noise without the oi! nk nk nk)

These next sounds cannot be stretched. Make the sound as short as possible avoiding uh at the end of the sound:

t – (tick tongue behind the teeth – unvoiced) p - (make distinctive p with lips – unvoiced) k – (make sharp click at back of throat) c - as above h – (say h as you breathe sharply out – unvoiced) ch- (make a short sneezing sound)

x – (say a sharp c and add s – unvoiced)

You will find it harder to avoid saying uh at the end of these sounds.

d – (tap tongue behind the teeth). g – (make soft sound in throat). b – (make a short, strong b with lips). j – (push lips forward). y – (keep edges of tongue against teeth). w – (keep lips tightly pursed). qu – (keep lips pursed as you say cw – unvoiced).

The short vowels should be kept short and sharp:

a: a-a-a (open mouth wide as if to take a bite of an apple). e: e-e-e (release mouth slightly from a position). i: i-i-i (make a sharp sound at the back of the throat – smile). o: o-o-o (push out lips, make the mouth into o shape). u: u-u-u (make a sound in the throat).

The long vowel sounds are all stretchy sounds ay: ay may I play ee: ee what do 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 for a boy

Here are some hand writing phrases for helping your child to form letters

This works best if your child practises for a short time every day.

1. Show the picture side and air-write as you say the phrase
2. Ask your child to practise in the air with you
3. Using a sharp pencil and sat at a table, encourage your child to have a go
4. Praise your child for their efforts

m: Maisie, mountain, mountain a: round the apple, down the leaf

s: slither down the snake d: round his bottom, up his tall neck and down to his feet

t: down the tower, across the tower

i: down the body, dot for the head

n: down Nobby, over his net

p: down the plait and over the pirate's face

g: round her face, down her hair and give her a curl

o: all around the orange

c: curl around the caterpillar

k: down the kangaroo's body, tail and leg

u: down and under, up to the top and draw the puddle

b: down the laces to the heel, round the toe f: down the stem and draw the leaves e: lift off the top and scoop out the egg

l: down the long leg

h: down the head to the hooves and over his back

r: down his back and then curl over his

j: down his body, curl and dot

v: down a wing, up a wing

y: down a horn, up a horn and under his head

w: down, up, down, up

z: zig-zag-zig

q: round her head, up past her earrings and down her hair

x: down the arm and leg and repeat the other side

If you have any questions about the RWI programme, please contact Mrs Jones in Lantic.