

Phonics and Writing in Reception

In Reception, we LOVE to read! Reading is at the heart of what we do. We love to enjoy stories, both fiction and non-fiction to help extend our vocabulary. Every half term our stories follow our topic themes, but of course we have our class favourites we adore and read over the terms! We have our core vocabulary each half term which is linked to our topic, and some extended vocabulary to progress the knowledge of our learners. We provide reading opportunities in all areas of our continuous provision, embedding a love for reading as soon as children step through our doors.

In Reception, we follow the Read Write Inc. programme. This is a systematic phonics programme that enables children to become fluent readers, confident speakers and willing writers.

Children begin learning their Set 1 sounds (single letters) and digraphs 'Special Friends' in September. Each half term, the children are assessed by our phonics lead Miss Martin, and as they progress they move into different groups based on their level. Each phonics group is led by a member of staff in school, meaning that the children are able to progress when they are ready. If any children need some extra support, we will provide 1-1 interventions.

How will my child be taught to read?

We start by teaching letter sounds to the children in the Reception class, alongside the formation of the letter with a little rhyme. This means that they learn how to say the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. We teach the children visual ways of remembering these sounds and letters. Ask them to show you what these are!

We aim to have all Reception children reading short sentences (Ditties) by February half term, and in Red Group by Easter. Any Nursery children who we identify who are ready in the Summer term will start learning their sounds!

What can I do to help?

We always post phonics videos on Class Dojo, please play these video's to help reinforce the learning within our phonics groups.

You can help your child at home by reading stories to them, practising handwriting with correct letter formation, and to sound out the individual letters in a word to try blend the sounds together. Try not to refer to the letters by their names. You can hear how to say the sounds correctly at this link: [Learning to read at home - Ruth Miskin Literacy](https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yic7LFde/JUGCipVD)

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Handwriting

Alongside phonics, we practise handwriting. Each child practises handwriting every day in their phonics lessons, and we then have 1-1 bespoke handwriting lessons for children to work on any sounds they are finding tricky to grasp.

Additional to the 1-1 adult handwriting sessions, we believe it is important for the children to practise their own creative writing in provision. Once children have completed a piece of writing, they can pop it in the finished tray and we can celebrate their writing with the class. We closely monitor who has accessed writing materials, and an adult will provide a writing opportunity for the children who have not accessed writing that week ensuring that learning is not left to chance.