

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will do in the early years of school. Your child's progress in all subject areas depends on their ability to read. At St Andrew's, we have chosen the Read Write Inc phonics programme as the basis for teaching phonics and reading.

What is Phonics?

We begin by helping children to hear the sounds in words.

We start to teach children to recognise some letters – saying the sound the letter makes. Children learn to hear the sounds and blend them together to make simple words e.g. m-a-t. Children continue to learn to read letter sounds and blend the sounds together to make simple words. We break words into sounds to spell them.

Set 1 speed sounds are taught in the following order:

m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v y w x z sh ch th ng nk qu

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

Help your child to sound out the letters in words and then to blend 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 the letters make. Read, Write Inc provide a video on YouTube to help parents and teachers to pronounce the speech sounds (phonemes) correctly to help children to blend.

You can help your child to learn the sounds in their sound book.



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Stretch: zzzzip
Handwrite: Zig-zag-zig

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Oral Blending

Blending Sounds

Blending sounds is a tricky stage and some children can take longer than others to master this.

Blending is when you say each sound and push them together to read a word.

Lots of blending games will help your child to practise this skill and master it as quickly as possible.

The children will know this skill as 'Fred Talk'.



Fred I spy

1. Say: Fred says 'I spy something r-e-d' Ask children to repeat. Pause to allow children to 'jump-in' with the whole word and point to something red.
2. Say: r-e-d, red. Ask children to repeat.

Repeat with: b-l-o-o, g-r-ee-n, b-l-a-k, b-r-ow-n

Blending cvc words



Red Ditty 5 Pick it up Speedy Green Words

can

can
...

How does the scheme progress?

The children continue to learn the letter sounds at quite a rapid pace. As they learn to blend more efficiently, they begin to read short phrases and sentences in the lessons called "ditties."

Ditty sheets

This Ditty will be read 4 or 5 times at home:

Day 1 read the speed sounds, green words and red words. Read the ditty. Let your child sound out the words without help.

Day 2 Read again. Help if they are stuck on a word, by just saying the word and allowing the flow not to be interrupted.

Day 3 Read the ditty **to your child** with expression, then ask your child to add expression when they read the ditty to you.

Day 4 Read the ditty one more time (maybe to a different adult).

Ditty 7: pup in the mud

Speed Sounds - read the sounds (not the letter name)

u t b d p s n m o i

Green Words - read these words by blending the sounds together

pup mud tub mop up in tut
sit sits

Red Words - read these words but tell your child the word if they get stuck

the I

pup sits in the mud

tut tut

pup sits in the tub

I mop up the mud



Remember not to read the Ditty to your child first.
As your child reads the Ditty, be patient and give your child plenty of praise.

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Special Friends

sh ch th ng nk qu ck

fish

Soon the children begin to have books to read in their phonics lessons. These are carefully matched to the phonics the children are learning. They read the books again and again over several lessons in order to gain fluency. Once the children can read the books easily, they are taught to answer questions about the book. Each week, the book is brought home in a wallet so your child can share this book with you too.

fish

Green Level book (example)



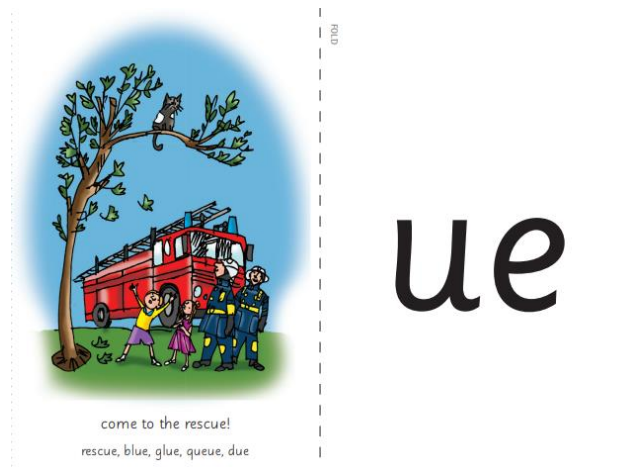
By the end of Reception, children will be using Fred talking, spotting special friends and reading sentences.

More information about the “speed sounds”

Once your child knows all Set 1 sounds by sight and sound and can read words by blending, we start to teach Set 2. Your child is now learning that sounds are often spelled with more than one letter; in phonics, we call these “special friends.” These “digraphs” are read as one sound (we do not read each letter by itself – just as we read /sh/ as sh - not s-h).

There is a little rhyme to accompany each set 2 sound; this helps your child to remember them.

Set 2 Sounds and rhymes	
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 for a boy



Set 3 Sounds and rhymes			
ea	cup of tea	ew	chew the stew
oi	spoil the boy	ire	fire! fire!
a_e	make a cake	ear	hear with your ear
i_e	nice smile	ure	sure it's pure
o_e	phone home	ph	take a photo
u_e	huge brute	kn	knock knock, who's there?
aw	yawn at dawn	wh	whisk, whisk
are	care and share	au	paul the astronaut
ur	nurse with a purse	e_e	go pete and steve!
er	a better letter	ie	terrible tie!
ow	brown cow	ue	come to the rescue!
ai	snail in the rain	tious/cious	scrumptious delicious
oa	goat in a boat	tion	attention

Progressions of sounds:

RWI Sounds	RWI book level
Picture books	
cvc	Sound Blending Ditty 1-8
cvc (inc l h r j v y w z x)	Ditty 9-18
cvc & special friends	Ditty 19-28
sh, ch, th, ng, nk, qu, ff, ll, ss, ck	Red
CCVC/CVCC blending	Green
ay ee, igh, ow, oo, oo	Purple
ar, or, air, ir, ou, oy	Pink
Blending all set 1 & 2 Sounds multi-syllabic words	Orange
ea, oi, a_e, i_e, o_e, u_e	Yellow
aw, are, er, ur, ow, ai, oa, ew, ire, ear, ure, ph, wh, kn	Blue
Longer Multi-syllabic words au e_e, ie, ue, tious, tion, cious	Grey



Grey Level – Y2 expectation



Story Green Words



Ask children to read the words first in Fred Talk and then say the word.



Luke Bruce Sue Duke cute lead brute rage growl
snarl mule stroke truce

Ask children to say the syllables and then read the whole word.

tatt|oo vel|vet coll|ar min|ute mar|oon accu|se stubb|orn

Ask children to read the root first and then the whole word with the suffix.

pounce → pounced choke → choking escape → escaped
refuse → refused chase → chased

After the Grey Level, children will progress to the Year 2 reading scheme, where they will continue to progress with a wide choice of books non-fiction and fiction books.

In Summary

Phonics is not just learning to recognise sounds; it is a set of skills

1. Hearing speech sounds
2. Blending sounds to make words for reading
3. Segmenting, breaking words into sounds for spelling

We have chosen the Read Write Inc programme because it teaches all these skills systematically and carefully to get your child off to a flying start with reading. The

daily phonics lesson is just part of the teaching programme we have at St Andrew's Infant School to support your child's reading.

We know parents and carers are very busy people. We are so grateful when you make time to read with your child at home. The more reading a child does, the more words they learn and the more knowledge they acquire.

You can do more simple things to help;

1. Make sure your child is in school on time – phonics is taught first thing in the morning
2. Bring your child's reading book to school each day and read it at home each evening – re-read it each day until your child is fluent
3. Make reading a happy time – read to your child as well as asking them to read to you

Visit these parents' websites for more information

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s