

Read to Learn not Learn to Read

Dear Parents/Carers

Read Write Inc., developed by Ruth Miskin, provides a structured and systematic approach to teaching literacy. It is used by more than a quarter of the UK's primary schools and is designed to create fluent readers, confident speakers and willing writers.

The Read Write Inc. programme meets the higher expectations of the new curriculum and uses effective assessment to accelerate every child's progress.

Reading opens the door to learning. A child who reads a lot will become a good reader. A good reader will be able to read more challenging material. A child who can read more challenging material is a child who will learn. The more a child learns, the more he or she will want to find out.

The Government strongly recommends the use of synthetic phonics when teaching early literacy skills to children. Synthetic phonics is simply the ability to convert a letter or letter group into sounds that are then blended together into a word.

Reception Class

We start by teaching phonics to children in Oak base. 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. We do not use letter names at this stage; we simply focus on the sounds that are used to sound out words. To view correct pronunciation of the sounds see this link: <http://www.ruthmiskintraining.com/teacher-support/61/index.html> . We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters by using rhymes and picture prompts. The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words'; these words cannot be decoded. We help children to learn these words by starting with the sounds that they are aware of and then we draw attention to the 'tricky bit' in the word. The children progress on to reading and comprehending lively storybooks that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. The books contain words that they can decode so they achieve early success in reading. Using RWI, the children learn to read effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into comprehending what they read. After meaningful discussions led by an adult children show that they comprehend the stories by answering questions. 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.

The children will start the Read Write Inc scheme as soon as they are in school full time. The first 8 weeks of the programme will be introducing all set 1 sounds and training the children the expectations of behaviour. They will have an initial assessment so that after that first 8 weeks, we can track exactly their progress in the scheme.

After the initial 8 weeks , the children will start bringing home Blending books from the RWI scheme. These books will be tailored to each child's reading ability. This book will be changed every Monday, so please practice the words in the book together at home, sounding out the words together. After half term, we will be sending home reading journals, set 1 sound books and another school book for you to share at home. These books should be read and shared together. Any queries, please do not hesitate to come in and see the class teachers in Oak Base.

Read Write Inc Books for Home Reading

Here at Verwood First School and Nursery, we are very excited to be able to offer your children new Read Write Inc books to bring home and read with you. These books will match your child's reading ability, and the colour of books that they are reading in school, in their Read Write Inc groups.

The children are assessed regularly and grouped according to their ability. They will work with a RWI trained teacher or teaching assistant.

Assessments will be carried out every 7-9 weeks, and your child will only move book colour if they move up in their RWI group. Children are closely monitored if they make no progress after 2 assessments, but please feel free to come in and talk to their class teacher or myself if you have any concerns or questions with regards to your child's reading.

They will change their book every Monday morning, during their RWI session, and keep this book at home for the week. This is so your child can spend time decoding the book on the first read, second read is to encourage more fluency and speed. By their third or fourth read, we want your child to have a full understanding of the story and be able to answer the questions in the back of the book. More advanced readers should be able to read with expression... this makes reading more fun!

We hope that this new reading at home scheme will be more closely matched to your child's reading ability which will in turn ensure they enjoy sharing these at home with you!

Your child isn't finding the books too easy... They are being SUCCESSFUL!

Please encourage your child to read though the speed sounds page first, then the green and red words page and then check your child understands the meaning of words on the vocabulary check page, before they start reading the book.

Finally, don't worry if your child is struggling at first with their sounds and words, they will get there in their own time. If you have time (we know it is very precious!), we would urge you to try and read other stories to your child before they go to bed. This will help develop a wider vocabulary which makes a vast difference to their quality of writing but it will also encourage them to enjoy a good story.

Children reading grey books or are not in a RWI group, will continue to use the current school reading books; carry on enjoying hearing them read and ask them lots of questions about the book. Thank you for your continuous support with your children's learning journey!

We will still have the old reading at home books, so if you wish your child to continue having these in addition to the RWI book, these are still available for them to take home and change regularly.

Rebecca Boyle
Phonics Leader