

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Flintham Primary School, we follow the Read, Write Inc. (RWI) scheme to teach phonics and guided reading. RWI is taught daily in small groups from when children first join us in Reception until Year 2, when they demonstrate they can read confidently, fluently and with good comprehension.

Please note, RWI is based on matching reading books for home closely to each child’s phonic knowledge and ability. This is now acknowledged to be the best way to develop early reading and reading fluency. We have purchased the RWI Book Bag Books for all stages of the programme. During the first weeks of term, RWI sessions will be based on assessing the children’s sound knowledge and grouping them accordingly and thereby ensuring the best match of reading book is given. For the first weeks, while the assessments are taking place, Class 2 children will be provided with reading books from our previous scheme. We look forward to being able to share our lovely new RWI Book Bag Books with you shortly. Most children in Class 1 will be given sound cards for the sounds that we are learning that day and will not be given a reading book until later on in the programme. RWI uses ‘ditties’ which are a few sentences linked to the sounds they know. These will be on photocopied sheets and will come home before reading books.

**How does it work?**

Children are assessed regularly and grouped according to their reading level. They work in small groups with a teacher or a teaching assistant who has been fully trained in the RWI programme. They learn the sounds that they need to know and practise blending and segmenting skills for reading and writing using ‘Fred Talk’.

At the end of each half term the children will be assessed again to check progress. They will then be re-grouped to ensure that they are being sufficiently challenged and supported. If children are not making expected progress they will access tailored ‘catch-up’ sessions.

Our daily RWI lessons start as shorter sessions for our children in Reception and develop into longer lessons that incorporate a guided reading lesson. RWI books are used which match children's phonic knowledge. Within these lessons children will also engage in writing activities to develop Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) skills along with activities that develop reading comprehension.

Children begin to learn the letter sounds (phonemes) and how to blend them together to read when they first start school in reception. Children will learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter/letter groups using simple picture prompts and a rhyme/saying called a ‘ditty’. First, children need to be able to 'orally blend' (saying the sounds and blending them into words, not reading them). You can help your child to orally blend by saying out loud the letters **"c-a-t"** and children should respond by blending the sounds into the word and saying the whole word **"cat".**Children then learn to read words by blending the letter/sounds that are in the Speed Sound sets. We call this 'Fred Talk'. In phonics we use pure sounds. This means removing the ‘uh’ from the sounds. The children learn to read real and ‘nonsense’ words (sometimes called monster or alien words) by blending sounds together. These sounds can be stretchy sounds (e.g. **ay** as in the words **play**) or bouncy sounds (e.g. **oo** as in the word **look**).

From the last term in F1 and then onto reception, continuing through Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) children learn the phonemes (letter sounds) including when sounds are represented by 2 letters (digraphs) or 3 letters (trigraphs). In the RWI programme these are known as ‘Special Friends’. As children move through the scheme they will be taught that some sounds can be written in different ways.

Throughout the scheme they are also taught to read and write ‘Common Exception’ or Tricky words that can not be sounded out. These are known as ‘Red Words’ in RWI.

There is lots of additional information regarding phonics and reading on our school website. There are several links to documents and extra information available to support parents when reading at home with their child, including RWI videos.

Many thanks

Mrs.Sharphouse