



# Teaching Phonics at Spring Lane Primary School



## Intent

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.

## Implementation

At Spring Lane your child is learning to read with Read Write Inc. Phonics, a very popular and successful literacy programme

We start by teaching phonics to the children who are ready in the final term of Nursery and then to all children in Reception class. 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 my child learn to read?

Your child will learn to read in a very simple way. He or she will learn to:

1. Read letters by their 'sounds'
2. Blend these sounds into words
3. Read the words in a story.

First, your child will learn to read:

- Set 1 Speed Sounds: these are sounds written with one letter:  
**m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v**  
**y w z x** and sounds written with two letters  
(your child will call these 'special friends'): **sh th ch**  
**qu ng nk ck**
- Words containing these sounds, by sound-blending,  
e.g. m-a-t *mat*, c-a-t *cat*, g-o-t *got*, f-i-sh *fish*,  
s-p-o-t *spot*, b-e-s-t *best*, s-p-l-a-sh *splash*
- Blending Books and Red, Green and Purple Storybooks.

Second, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 2 Speed Sounds: **ay ee igh ow oo ar or air**  
**ir ou oy**
- Words containing these sounds
- Pink, Orange and Yellow Storybooks.

Third, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 3 Speed Sounds: **ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw**  
**are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure**
- Words containing these sounds
- Blue and Grey Storybooks.

Your child will be taught to say the sound for the letter and not the letter name, so 'm' as in 'mat', not 'em'; 's' as in 'sun' not 'es'.

## Practice at Home

- Children on the Read Write inc. programme will take home the book they have been reading in phonics (colour book) on a Friday.
- Children will not get a new book each week (on a Friday)
- Children should be able to read this book fluently by themselves with some practice
- They will have a clear reading folder for their reading book and record which will need to be in school **EVERYDAY**
- Those that are not yet on story books will have sound cards to take home and ditty sheets
- In addition to the RWI book, children on the programme can take home a '**Bedtime story book**' in addition to their colour book.
- The bedtime story book is a sharing book and is to be read to the children. They do not have to be able to read this book themselves.
- From January 2023, we will be introducing an additional **book bag book** for the children to take home and practice the sounds learnt in lessons at school.

## Reading Rewards



- Home reading needs to be recorded in the child's reading record and signed by parents
- Children receive a house point for every home read
- Teaching staff will hear children read weekly
- Bronze, silver, gold and platinum awards are given out for 50,100,150 and 250 reads at home.
- Platinum award winners will be taken to Waterstones to buy a book.

For further information and more detail on how to read with your child at home please click on the 'How to help your child with reading at home' tab.

Reading feeds the imagination; it expands horizons and offers new and exciting ways of seeing and making sense of our lives and of the world around us.

*Michael Morpurgo*



