

## Phonics Information

At St. Joseph's we follow the Read Write Inc. (RWI) programme in Phonics.

### How it works?

Termly the children are assessed and grouped according to their ability. They work in small groups to learn the sounds they need to know at their own pace.

At the end of each half term the children are assessed again to check they have made progress and sometimes regrouped again.

### Reading

Through RWI the children will learn to read effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into comprehension, vocabulary and spelling.

The children will learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter/ letter groups using simple picture prompts. The children learn to read real and 'nonsense' words by blending sounds together. These sounds can be stretchy sounds or bouncy sounds. At the same time we include writing and letter formation linked to the sounds. In RWI we use pure sounds - please follow the link below to support your child with pure sounds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q&t=74s>

The RWI scheme is based on 4 underlying principles;

Pace – A good pace is essential to the lesson.

Praise – Children learn quickly in a positive environment.

Purpose – Every part of the lesson has a specific purpose.

Participation – All children take part in *all* parts of the lesson.

Throughout our phonics sessions we refer to Fred Talk, Fred is a frog that helps us to blend and segment sounds and we call this Fred Talk.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNyFikwNQTg>

## Blending:

Blending is a vital skill needed for reading. Children learn to read words by blending the letter/sounds that are in the Speed Sound sets. The separate sounds are spoken aloud and in order, they are then merged together into the whole word.

You can help your child to read words by sound-blending (Fred Talk) e.g. h-a-t = hat.

Blending activities you can do at home:

- Break down simple instructions or asking questions such as: "Can you find your h-a-t?"
- Play "what's in the box" Put some toys or objects in a bag and pull out one at a time. Say "I can feel a p-e-g". Children then guess what is in the bag.
- Play I Spy but sounding out objects e.g. "I spy a c-u-p".

## Set 1 Sounds:

In phonics your child will learn their initial sounds also known as 'speed sounds'. This is because they should be able to then read them fluently and at speed. It is important your child pronounces the sounds clearly and does not add 'uh' to the end of each sound. Each sound will have a picture prompt and rhyme to accompany it.

### Set 1 single set sounds

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

Set 1 special friends - Special friends are a combination of two or three letters representing one sounds - sh, th, ch, qu, ng, nk



Set 2 Sounds

Speed Sounds Set 2

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

ea  cup of tea	oi  spoil the boy			
ā-e  make a cake	i-e  nice smile	o-e  phone home	ū-e  huge brute	aw  yawn at dawn
are  care and share	ur  nurse with a purse	er  a better letter	ow  brown cow	ai  snail in the rain
oa  goat in a boat	ew  chew the stew	ire  fire, fire!	ear  hear with your ear	ure  sure it's pure

## Segmenting and Spelling

Fred helps children learn to spell as well. By segmenting the word the children can hear the individual sounds needed to write the word.

Children convert words into sounds. They pinch the sounds they hear on to their fingers... We call this Fred Fingers.

## High Frequency words

High frequency words are common words, words that appear very often in written texts. They are a mixture of decodable words (words that can be sounded out) and red / tricky exception words (words in which the English spelling code works in an unusual or uncommon way, which means the words have to be learned and recognised by sight, red words). It is very valuable to learn to read these words instantly as the help to increase reading speed and fluency.

## Red Words / Tricky words: We can't Fred a red word!

Red words or tricky words are words that need to be learnt by sight recognition. You cannot sound them out using Fred Talk, which means the words have to be learned and recognised by sight.

Here are some examples of red / tricky words:

I, no, you, said, come, me, he, she

There is further information on the Ruth Miskin Training website and a 'Parent Tutorial Video' that may be helpful for you to look at.

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

Additional websites to support with reading at home

Phonics Play <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>