



## PHONICS



Phonics is not the only way to teach reading, but it is recognised as the best way to teach reading for most children.

At Christ Church we follow the **Read Write Inc** scheme (RWI) to teach phonics and guided reading. This is taught every day in small groups with a range of exciting books and colourful, appealing resources around the learning environment.

Children are taught phonics daily from EYFS to Year 2. Children in Year 3 who still require these daily lessons, will have access to them.

### **How is it taught?**

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 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 they have made progress and they will be grouped again to ensure that they are being sufficiently challenged and supported. If they are not making progress they will access tailored 'catch-up' sessions. Children who have made accelerated progress do not have to move up every group.

These daily lessons start as shorter sessions for our EYFS children and develop into hour long lessons that incorporate a guided reading lesson with a variety of RWI books and writing activities to develop Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) skills and reading comprehension.

### **What is the progression in phonics teaching?**

Children start phonics and reading in F1 (Nursery). In F1 their learning is divided into seven aspects, including; environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and finally oral blending and segmenting. This is continued into F2 (Reception).

Next they begin to learn the letter sounds (phonemes) and how to blend them together to read. Children will learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter/letter groups using simple picture prompts and a rhyme called a 'ditty'. Children learn to read words by blending the letter/sounds that are in the Speed Sound sets. You can help your child to read words by

sound-blending (Fred Talk) e.g. c-a-t= cat. In phonics we use pure sounds. This means removing the 'uh' from the sounds. The children learn to read real and 'nonsense' words by blending sounds together. These sounds can be stretchy sounds or bouncy sounds.

From F2 into KS1 (Year 1 and 2) children continue to 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 'Common Exception' or Tricky words that can not be sounded out. These are known as 'Red Words' in RWI.

Please use the links below to find out more:

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

[https://www.ruthmiskin.com/media/finder\\_public/9d/99/9d996dd3-9d0c-4836-b5eb-f1c6443de260/rwi-phonics-structure-chart.pdf](https://www.ruthmiskin.com/media/finder_public/9d/99/9d996dd3-9d0c-4836-b5eb-f1c6443de260/rwi-phonics-structure-chart.pdf)