



Learning to Read Guidance for parents

'Teach a child to read and keep that child reading and we will change everything.'
Jeannette Winterson

Reading changes everything. Research shows that children who learn to read quickly go on to succeed in school and life. At St. Gabriel's we use the Read, Write, Inc. Phonics Programme to teach early reading and writing.

Who Is Read Write Inc. Phonics for at St. Gabriel's?

Phonics is for children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 who are learning to read. It is also for children in Y3 and Y4 who haven't met the KS1 reading expectations. Fresh Start is for children in Y5 and Y6 who are still learning to read. Fresh Start is structured in the same way as the Read, Write Inc. Phonics programme, but uses age-appropriate texts.

What does the Read Write Inc. Phonics Programme do?

First we teach the children letter sounds. The children practice reading words containing these sounds. Then we give the children decodable books containing sounds and words they can read. On each reading, the children's fluency increases and then they can focus on what the story is about.

Children also learn to spell the words they have been reading and develop their ideas into sentences so that they can write about the Storybooks they read.



Alongside this we read stories **to** the children: stories they cannot yet read for themselves.

Our aim is for children to finish the Read, Write, Inc. Phonics programme quickly so they can start reading these books for themselves.





What is phonics?

All words are made up of individual **sounds**. These sounds are merged together to form words.

e.g. in 'mat' we have the sounds 'm', 'a', 't', ship – 'sh', 'i', 'p'.

A *grapheme* is another name for the letters we use to write the sound. Phonics is the method of teaching reading through the identification of sounds and graphemes. The National Curriculum ensures that all children are taught Phonics systematically. This gives your children the tools to read any word.

English Alphabetical Code

We use 44 sounds to make all the words in the English language. In English we have more than 150 ways to represent 44 sounds, using the 26 letters in the alphabet. This makes our language one of the most complex in the world!

Speeds Sounds Sets 1 and 2

Consonant sounds – stretchy

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
										nk

Consonant sounds – bouncy

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
	k											tch

Vowel sounds – bouncy

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
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Vowel sounds – stretchy

Vowel sounds – stretchy

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy
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Speed Sounds Set 3

Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		se	ci		
					c					
					ce					

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		j	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck				g							
	ch				ge							
					dge							

Vowel sounds

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				ā-e	ē-e	ī-e	ō-e
					ai	y	ie	oa
						ea	i	o
						e	y	

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
ū-e			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			ore	aw						
			au							

We teach Set 1 sounds first - (sounds as far as a e i o u). Children need to know sounds – not letter names – to read words.

Pure sounds

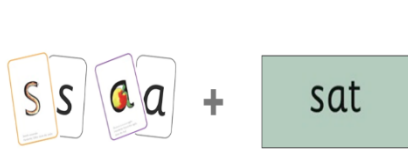
We teach using pure sounds. We pronounce the sounds clearly, ('m' not 'muh', 's' not 'suh', etc.) so that your child will be able to blend the sounds together to make words more easily.

There are free video tutorials on the Read, Write, Inc. Website – www.ruthmiskin.com demonstrating how to do this.



Sounds + blending = reading

Alongside teaching children sounds, we teach them to blend sounds to read words e.g. s-a-t, sat. We use Fred Talk to help children read.



Fred

Fred helps children practise blending sounds together because he needs the children to say the words for him. Fred says d-o-g, children tell him the word is dog.

Which books will children bring home?

In your child's book bag, they will bring home:

- A Read, Write, Inc. Book Bag Book. These reading books are matched to phonics sounds the children have been taught so provide extra practice at the right level for your child. They include many of the same reading activities that we use in class.

- A library book or class teacher recommended read to share with you. You can read the story to them or they can retell the story by looking at the pictures. They are not expected to read the story themselves.

We make sure that every book that goes into your child's book bag is a well-loved book – one they know already and want to read again and again.

Ways you can support your child at home

1. Use pure sounds, not letter names (Watch the free video tutorials on the Read, Write, Inc. Website – www.ruthmiskin.com)
2. Use Fred Talk to read and spell words
3. Listen to your child read their Storybook every day
4. Read stories to your child every day

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