

Phonics at Hipsburn Primary School

Reading plays a vital role in the development and education of your child, and at Hipsburn Primary School we value reading as an essential part of the whole curriculum. Through the teaching of phonics children learn to read so that they can then read to learn, and at Hipsburn we ensure that pupils develop confidence, understanding and a love for reading.

Read Write Inc.

In Reception and Key Stage One we use the Read Write Inc. phonics programme. In phonics the 42 main sounds of English are taught, not just the alphabet, and children use these sounds to tackle new words by decoding them or 'sounding them out'. They then blend the sounds back together to read the whole word.

The children are taught sounds in 3 sets. Set 1 sounds are taught in the following order: m a s d t / i n p g o / c k u b / f e l h sh / r j v y w / th z ch qu x ng nk.

In phonics we use **pure sounds** so that your child will be able to blend the sounds into words more easily. Some sounds should be stretched slightly. Try to avoid saying 'uh' after each one, e.g. /mm/ not muh, /ss/ not suh, /ff/ not fuh. Some sounds cannot be stretched. Make the sound as short as possible by 'bouncing' it, avoiding any 'uh' sound at the end, e.g. /t/ tick tongue behind teeth, unvoiced. /c/ make a sharp click at the back of your throat.

The children are then taught Set 2 sounds which are the long vowel sounds, e.g. ay, ee, igh, etc. When they are very confident with all of Set 1 and 2 they are then taught Set 3 sounds, which are alternative spellings of the long vowel sounds.

We also teach some whole words so that each child builds up a sight vocabulary of common and 'tricky red' words to support their reading fluency. Within the Read Write Inc. lesson children take part in daily shared reading. This allows staff to hear your child read frequently as well as to quickly identify any individuals who may need additional support. This reading is linked to an understanding of what they have read and then ties into writing activities.

Reading schemes

We provide attractive, interesting books that the children will enjoy sharing with you. Some of the key reading schemes used in school at the moment are Read Write Inc., Oxford Reading Tree and Project X. Pupils read through a set of banded books, and they take their reading book home every afternoon along with their reading record. Each colour band is a different level and is linked to the progression of the Read Write Inc. scheme. We provide a range of books at different levels within each book band and encourage a special '3 reads' approach, which supports how we teach reading at school. The first time your child reads a book they are decoding the words using their phonic knowledge. A second read enables your child to develop an understanding of what they are reading and then, by the third read, your child should be reading the story with greater fluency and expression.

The pupils know which book band they are working at and recognise the book band that they are working towards.

Reading opportunities

While Read Write Inc. is used as the basis of our phonics work in school we also supplement the teaching of reading with many high quality resources and creative ideas. We promote reading for pleasure and encourage children to use the school library every week. Pupils also read regularly in other areas of the curriculum throughout school day.

Children benefit from;

- One to one reading - teachers and teaching assistants regularly listen to pupils read. As part of this they then teach specific and targeted reading skills that are sufficiently challenging for your child.
- Parent volunteers - we are fortunate to have a number of parent volunteers who listen to the children reading regularly on a one to one basis.
- Story time - in Key Stage One story books are read to pupils daily. This allows them to enjoy rich texts which they cannot yet access themselves, and gives them the opportunity to hear new vocabulary and good examples of reading aloud. Story time also helps the children to develop an enthusiasm for reading.

Read Write Inc. Online

Please click the link below to access the pupil and parent sections of Read Write Inc. online.

To log in simply:

- Click on **My Class Log in**

- Put in the name of your child's class, **e.g. bamburghcastle** plus the password **fredfrog**.

There are 250 free children's e-books on the site for you to search through by age or theme, as well as plenty of fun games and lots of information about phonics and reading for parents.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

Other useful links

[http://www.focusonphonics.co.uk/acatalog/What is Phonics.html](http://www.focusonphonics.co.uk/acatalog/What_is_Phonics.html)

<http://www.oup.com/oxed/primary/rwi/>