



St Chad's RC Primary School

'Love one another as I have loved you' 15:12

Reading with your child and a guide to our reading systems at St. Chad's Early Years and Key Stage 1

This guide is designed to answer your questions about helping your child learn to read.
If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

In Reception and Key Stage 1, the children will learn to read by following the Read, Write, Inc Programme. (RWI) This will be introduced in Summer for Nursery children. In the meantime, Nursery will bring home a range of wordless books so that you can develop story language together. Reception will bring home a class library book, which will be supplemented with a RWI Book Bag Book when they are ready to blend sounds together to make words. KS1 children will bring home a Book Bag Book linked to their phonics lessons.

What is Read, Write, Inc?

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**.



How will my child learn to read?

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 or 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.

We have a storytime every day at school so children develop a love of stories. We hope that you will do the same by reading a bedtime story to your child every night.

How is reading is assessed in school?

Through phonics assessments and reading tests, the teacher will assess children's ability: *to decode print* (to know what a words say) e.g. to sound out, to use the context of the writing to tackle unknown words

to understand what they have read to make predictions about a story, to ask and answer questions about what has been read

How can I help my child to become a better reader?

Once your child can read Set 1 Speed Sounds confidently, he or she can learn to read words.

First, your child is introduced to a toy frog called Fred. Fred can only say the sounds in a word and needs your child to help him read the word. So, when you hear your child say 'Fred Talk', you'll know this means sounding out the word.

You can help your child to read words by following these steps:

1. Make up a word with three cards that your child can read

quickly,

e.g. c-a-t.



Point to and say the sounds, and then say the word. Ask your child to copy you.

Muddle up the cards. Ask your child to make the word again, and then point to and say the sounds.

Repeat with more 3-sound words, including some containing sounds made up of more than one letter, e.g. ch-a-t, sh-i-p, th-i-s.

2. Put out three cards. This time, ask your child to say the sounds.

Help him or her to blend the sounds into the words, until your child can do it without your help.

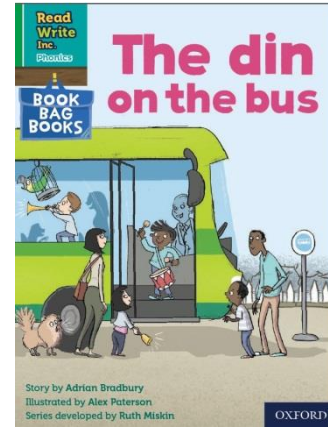
3. Repeat with some 4-sound words, e.g. b-l-i-p, f-r-o-g, g-r-i-n, s-t-o-p, j-u-m-p, h-a-n-d, b-l-a-ck.



Book Bag Books

When your child is ready, they will bring home a Book Bag Book. This book builds upon the ideas and many of the words in the Storybook he or she has just read in phonics lessons. Your child will need more support in reading this book. Explanations of how to use the activities are included in the books.

Your child's Book Bag Book will be changed once or twice per week. This is in line with how often their phonics class book will change. Each book (including Book Bag Books) should be read at least three times to encourage fluency and confidence.



How does the school determine my child's reading level/phonics group?

In EYFS and KS1, your child's book should link to their phonics level in order for them to secure their knowledge of the sounds. There will be half termly assessments which will determine not only which group your child is in, but also which sounds they know and still need to learn.

We also have regular reading assessments (termly) from Spring in Year 1.

Frequently Asked Questions

How often will my child's books be changed?

Your child's Book Bag Book will be changed once or twice per week. This is in line with how often their phonics class book will change. Each book (including Book Bag Books) should be read at least three times to encourage fluency and confidence. If your child is reading well, they should be reading for meaning, using appropriate tone and expression in addition to accurate word recognition.

Please sign your child's reading record when they have read at home, as this helps us to know how they are progressing at home, as well as in school.

How do I listen to my child read?

Please take time to read with your child at home. This should be a fun activity and choose time when your child is most responsive. This will involve taking time out of often busy schedules. Make sure there are no distractions and that the TV is off. Children should read with an adult, as this teaches children that it is a valuable and important activity.

Please see below for 'top tips'.

What if I think my child's book is too easy or too difficult?

Please come and speak to your child's teacher, but rest assured that the children have been accurately assessed to ensure that their book suits their current needs.

My child is not a strong reader. Can they still access Book Bag Books?

When your child has begun to blend simple words, they will then bring a Book Bag Book home with them. They may have a 'Sound Blending Book' first of all, before they receive a Book Bag Book.

What if my child loses their book or their book gets damaged?

We have spent a significant amount of money on books so if a book is lost or damaged, we have to pass the cost of the book to you as parents. A letter will be sent home explaining the process but the standard charge for a lost or damaged book is £5. We do understand that you may wish to replace the book yourself, this is ok but we expect the book to be in the same condition as the book that was originally sent home. We have provided zip-wallets to help to keep the books in a good condition.

How can the school encourage reading for pleasure?

Recently, we have continued our next phase of spending to focus on class libraries. Where possible we have tried to link these to the topics we study and to the reading scheme so that the level of difficulty is monitored. However, we won't be encouraging the children to pick a particular book linked to their ability as this is about reading for pleasure. Therefore, when your child brings a book home from the class library, you may need to support them by reading it together but this could provide lots of valuable opportunities for you to talk about the book and whether they enjoyed it.

Top tips for hearing your child read

- Do not read the book aloud before your child reads it to you.
- Ask your child to read the sounds and words before he or she reads the story. This is a great refresher, and they will be used to this.
- When your child reads the story, ask him or her to sound out the words that he or she can't read automatically. Don't allow your child to struggle too much. Praise your child when he or she succeeds.
- Read back each sentence or page to keep the plot moving. (Your child's energy is going into reading the words not the story.)
- Do not ask your child to guess the word by using the pictures.
- Do it all with patience!

Please Note: 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'.