

Phonics at CtS

At Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School, we have adopted a book-led approach across the curriculum. High quality texts are at the centre of our English provision and stimulate learning across curriculum. Our school is rooted in a story - the Parable of the Sower from the Bible. By providing the good soil of English teaching and a curriculum that engages and nourishes children, we expect children to grow as readers and writers.

Children who read regularly or who are read to regularly have the opportunity to open the doors to so many different worlds! More importantly, reading will give your child the tools to become independent life-long learners.

We can achieve this together through:

- **Read Write Inc, a program to help your child read at school**
- **Encouraging children to develop a love of books by reading to them daily, at home and at school**
- **Giving children access to a wide range of books at school and at home**

At CtS we use Read Write Inc Phonics (RWI) to give your child the best possible start with their reading and writing. We have put together a guide to how the RWI programme works together with some useful links.

Mrs Palfreyman is our Read Write Inc lead teacher, so if you have questions about RWI, contact school who can refer you to her. Please take the time to read the information as it will provide invaluable information as to how you can help and support your child in reading.

What is Read Write Inc?

Read Write Inc (RWI) is a phonics programme which helps **all** children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling. The programme is designed for children aged 4-7. However, at CtS we begin the programme in Nursery and will continue teaching RWI to children beyond the age of 7 if they still need support in their reading. RWI was developed by Ruth Miskin and more information on this can be found at <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>.

How will RWI be taught?

Children are grouped in small focus groups linked to the phase of development that the children are at. Groups are fluid and teachers' day-to-day assessment informs any change to provision. Every half-term, the early reading leader assesses every child's phonic skills and knowledge. Children are regrouped accordingly so they can work on their next steps. For any child at risk of falling behind, catch up interventions are quickly put into place to address the barrier to phonics learning. These include: precision training, recap and revisiting sounds already taught and home school links.

Nursery

When appropriate, children will be introduced to the initial sounds in short sessions.

Reception

In Reception all children will learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down.

Reading

The children:

- learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letters/letter groups using simple picture prompts – see below
- learn to read words using Fred talk and sound blending
- read from a range of storybooks and non-fiction books matched to their phonic knowledge
- work well with partners
- develop comprehension skills in stories by discussing and answering questions

Writing

The children:

- learn to write and form the letters/letter groups which represent the 44 sounds with the help of fun phrases
- learn to write words by using Fred Talk
- learn to build sentences by practising sentences out loud before they write

Talking

The children work in pairs so that they:

- answer every question
- practise every activity with their partner
- take turns in talking and reading to each other
- develop ambitious vocabulary

Year One & Year Two

Children follow the same format as Reception but will work on complex sounds and read books appropriate to their reading level. Daily sessions of RWI phonics last approximately half an hour. Once children become fluent speedy readers they will move on to daily Guided Reading sessions.

Children will be taught how to read as follows:

Before you start to teach your child, practise saying the sounds below. These are the sounds we use to speak in English.

Fred Talk



We use **pure sounds** ('m' not 'muh', 's' not 'suh', etc.) so that your child will be able to blend the sounds into words more easily.

This short video is to support you in helping your child pronounce the sounds correctly.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q>

At school we use a puppet called Fred who is an expert on sounding out words! We call it, 'Fred Talk'. E.g. m-o-p, c-a-t, m-a-n, sh-o-p, b-l-a-ck.

The following video is an example of blending sounds with Fred. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEzfpod5w_Q

The children are taught the sounds in 3 sets.

Step 1:

Set 1 Sounds are taught in the following order together with rhymes to help children form the letters correctly and instantly recognise sounds ready for blending.

Set 1	
Sound	Rhyme
m	Down Maisie then over the two mountains. Maisie, mountain, mountain.
a	Round the apple, down the leaf.
s	Slide around the snake
d	Round the dinosaur's back, up his neck and down to his feet.
t	Down the tower, across the tower,
i	Down the insects body, dot for the head.
n	Down Nobby and over the net.
p	Down the plait, up and over the pirates face.
g	Round the girls face, down her hair and give her a curl
o	All around the orange
c	Curl around the caterpillar
k	Down the kangaroos body, tail and leg
u	Down and under the umbrella, up to the top and down to the puddle
b	Down the laces, over the toe and touch the heel
f	Down the stem and draw the leaves
e	Slice into the egg, go over the top, then under the egg
l	Down the long leg
h	Down the horse's head to the hooves and over his back
sh	Slither down the snake, then down the horse's head to the hooves and over his back
r	Down the robot's back, then up and curl
j	Down his body, curl and dot
v	Down a wing, up a wing
y	Down a horn, up a horn and under the yak's head.
w	Down, up, down, up the worm.

th	Down the tower, across the tower, then down the horse's head to the hooves and over his back
z	Zig-zag-zig, down the zip.
ch	Curl around the caterpillar, , then down the horse's head to the hooves and over his back
qu	Round the queen's head, up to her crown, down her hair and curl
x	Cross down the arm and leg and cross the other way
ng	A thing on a string
nk	I think I stink

Please do not use letter names at this early stage.

Children will also use pictures for each sound to help recognise the sound and then form the shape of the sound.



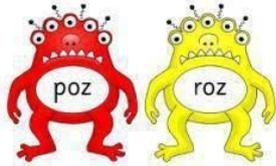
Step 2:

The children are then taught **Set 2 Sounds** - the long vowels. When they are very confident with all of set 1 and 2 they are taught **Set 3 Sounds**.

Long vowel sound	Set 2 Speed Sound cards Teach these first	Set 3 Speed Sound cards	
ay	ay: may I play	a-e: make a cake	ai: snail in the rain
ee	ee: what can you see	ea: cup of tea	e: he me we she be
igh	igh: fly high	i-e: nice smile	
ow	ow: blow the snow	o-e: phone home	ao: goat in a boat
oo	oo: poo at the zoo	u-e: huge brute	ew: chew the stew
oo	oo: look at a book		
ar	ar: start the car		
or	or: shut the door	aw: yawn at dawn	
air	air: that's not fair	are: share and care	
ir	ir: whirl and twirl	ur: nurse for a purse	er: a better letter
ou	ou: shout it out	ow: brown cow	
oy	oy: toy for a boy	oi: spoil the boy	

ire		ire: fire fire!	
ear		ear: hear with your ear	
ure		ure: sure it's pure?	

Nonsense words (Alien words)



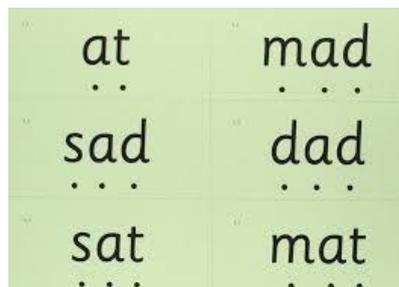
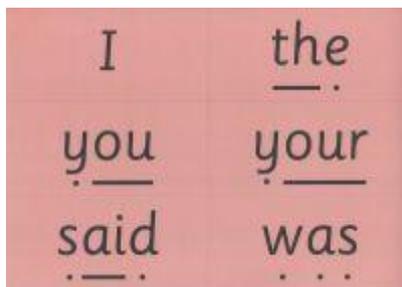
As well as learning to read and blend real words children will have plenty of opportunities to apply their sound recognition skills on reading 'Nonsense words'. These words will also feature heavily in the Year One Phonics Screening check in the summer term. [Click here](#) for further information on the Screening check.

Step 3:

Children will be introduced to 'Ditty books' when they successfully begin to read single words. The short vowels should be kept short and sharp:

Children use sound-blending (Fred Talk) to read short ditties. They will bring these home once they have read and discussed the book in class. Children will then be challenged to use their developing phonic knowledge to write short sentences.

Within all the books children will have **red** and **green** words to learn to help them to become speedy readers. **Red** words are words that are not easily decodable and challenge words to extend children's vocabulary. **Green** words are linked to the sounds they have been learning and are easily decodable.



Dots and dashes represent the sound each letter makes.

Once your child has been introduced and taught these words in school we will send them home for you to continue practising with your child.

During the RWI session children will read the book three times and at each new reading they will have plenty of opportunities to practise using their developing comprehension skills. You may have heard your child talking about '**hold, edit or build a sentence**'.

Hold a sentence is an activity that encourages children to remember a whole sentence while focusing on spelling and punctuation.

Build a sentence is to give children the opportunity to create their own sentence to that shows the meaning of a word and edit a sentence allows the children to critique a sentence using their knowledge of spelling punctuation and grammar. Children

complete a longer piece of independent writing, which gives them the opportunity to show off their creativity and to practice their spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Books in school: In school the children will be reading the RWI books listed below. The expectation is that all children will leave Year One as confident speedy readers, ready to take on the challenges of Year Two. However, some children may need extra support and your teacher will talk to you about this. We use a range of phonetically decodable books in line with the phases children are working at. For children who are still developing decoding skills, the reading book is phonetically decodable in line with their RWInc phase. In addition, every child has a 'reading' book and a choice book alongside the books they are reading with their teacher.

Alongside this, we use books that are banded to further support reading fluently and with understanding across a wider range of text types. We have a well-stocked library that is regularly supplemented by the Schools Library Service to ensure our stock is up to date. Every class receives a 'topic box' from the SLS to support reading widely across the curriculum.

Books	Year Group Expectations	Green Words in Books
Red Ditty 1-10	Reception	Click here to help your child
Green 1-10	Reception	Click here to help your child
Purple 1-10	Reception	Click here to help your child
Pink 1-10	Reception/Year One	Click here to help your child
Orange 1-12	Year One	Click here to help your child
Yellow 1-10	Year One	Click here to help your child
Blue 1-10	Year One	Click here to help your child
Grey 1-13	Year One	Click here to help your child

To help at home:

Your child will start to bring a range of reading books home, which will be closely matched to their phonic ability. Children will often begin reading books which are 'wordless' to encourage the children to retell the story and notice what is happening in text using picture clues. This supports children becoming confident speakers and readers. Please help them to read and give lots of praise! If you have any other questions about RWI, please see your class teacher or Mrs Palfreyman.

Phonics Screening Check Year One

What is the Year 1 phonics screening check?

The Year 1 phonics screening check is a formal assessment and a way for teachers to check and ensure that children are making sufficient progress with their phonics skills to read words and that they are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning. It will help teachers to identify the

children who need extra help so they are given support by their school to improve their reading skills.

Year 1 children usually take the phonics screening check in early June.

They will then be able to retake the check in Year 2, so that schools can track pupils until they are able to decode. Further information can be found [here](#).

Useful websites for Parents

Please find a list of websites that you may find useful in helping you and your child learn about phonics. Games and fun activity websites are also included.

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/> - RWI phonic information for parents with useful links, including phonic lesson on YouTube

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> - many games to play

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcqqtftr> - fun lessons for the children to watch

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html> - fun games for the children to play **BBC**

Bitesize - many games to play covering all areas of the curriculum