



Read Write Inc. Phonics Programme at St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

Intent

At St Elizabeth's we promote a love for reading and writing and we want our children to enjoy and develop a passion for reading. We teach the Read Write Inc (RWI) Phonics Programme which is a systematic and synthetic approach to the teaching of reading. Children learn 44 common sounds in the English language and how to blend them to read and spell. RWI includes the teaching of phonics, reading, spelling and writing.

Implementation

The RWI programme is for:

- Pupils in EYFS to Year 2 who are learning to read and write
- Any pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 who need to catch up rapidly

Our pupils receive a daily 40 minute session at the start of everyday. Our whole school staff approach enables us to have smaller group sizes; fewer children in each group allow teaching more closely matched to their ability and therefore children make more progress.

In RWI phonics pupils:

- Decode letter-sound correspondences quickly and effortlessly, using their phonic knowledge and skills
- Read common exception words on sight
- Understand what they read
- Read aloud with fluency and expression
- Write confidently, with a strong focus on vocabulary and grammar
- Spell quickly and easily by segmenting the sounds in words

Daily Speed Sound lesson

The pupils rapidly learn sounds and the letter or groups of letters they need to



represent them (special friends). Simple mnemonics help the children to grasp the sound quickly. Pupils have daily practice in reading high frequency words with irregular spellings including common exception words (red words).

Reading - Book Matching

We make sure that pupils read books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and the common exception words. This is so that, early on, they experience success and gain confidence that they are readers. Re-reading and discussing these books with the teacher supports their increasingly fluent decoding.

Book Matching: Home-School links

The children take home a *Book Bag Book* which links directly to the text they have shared in their RWI learning group. The children also take home a Speed Sound Chart and Speed Sound Booklet.

Assessing and tracking progress

We assess all pupils following Read Write Inc. phonics using the RWI Assessment Record every half term. The Reading Leader uses this data to assign the children to groups accordingly. This gives us a very good indication of how well they are making progress relative to their starting points. We are aware of gaps in children's phonics, their language experiences and also their term of birth and how, for some children, being born in the summer term can have a detrimental impact upon phonic development.

Additionally, the Reading Leader carries out termly phonic screening assessments with Year 1 and Year 2 pupils in order to track progress and prepare the children in readiness for the end of year Phonic Screening Check.

All assessments and information feeds into how we cater for each child and the grouping or additional language experiences we deliver and phonic interventions they may experience to ensure we maximise our children's phonic development and enjoyment of books and early reading.