



Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

How will my child be taught to read?

Children learn how letters, or groups of letters sound. Once children can recognise sounds they learn to blend them together to read words. They use their knowledge of these sounds and blending to decode words in a story and read independently.

At New Marston we follow the **Read Write Inc** program for phonics and sessions take place every day.

The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'.

The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. Teachers also read to the children, so the children get to know all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps their writing.

Why learn to read with phonics?

- Phonics supports children in reading independently.
- It helps them to become confident readers.
- It supports spelling in writing.

Children learn to read letter sounds (not letter names) in the following order:

Set 1 speed sounds

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

special friends **sh th ch qu ng nk ck**

Set 2 speed sounds

ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy

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

During each phonics session, children read words containing these sounds and storybooks that support their stage of reading..

The Ruth Miskin website provides lots of useful information on RWI phonics, including how to say the sounds.

<https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>

Phonics phrases

Some of the phrases that we use in class and you might like to try at home are:

Fred Talk

Saying the sounds in each word for example, *s-l-ee-p, sleep*, then blending the sounds to say the word.

Fred in your head

Blending silently, then saying the whole word out loud.

Sound blending

putting sounds together to make a word, e.g. *d-o-g dog*

special friends

Special friends are the letters that make up a single sound, for example *a* and *y* make the *ay* sound, as in *play*.

Speedy reading

Reading quickly and fluently.



Reading at home

Ask your child to read to you before you read to them.

Practise sounds and words at the start of the reading book before reading the story.

Ask your child to 'Fred Talk' any words that they cannot read straight away. Then if they are still not sure, tell them the word.

Don't ask your child to guess the word by using pictures.

Read each page back to your child when they have read to keep the story moving.

Ask them to read the book again, perhaps trying to 'Fred in your head'.

Don't forget to give lots of praise!

The Oxford Owl website provides lots of useful tips for reading at home:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/reading-at-home>

Exception to the rule

The English language is a tricky one to learn and there are always exceptions to the rule!

Some words cannot be decoded using phonics skills. These include

I my the you said your
are be of no what all
was we so to me call
her there want go old some
he does tall come watch who
were many any their where small
would should they could here once

Children learn the whole word and therefore recognise these words by sight.