

# Phonics

At Holy Family we use the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme to teach our children the foundations of reading.

We start in Nursery by introducing the Set 1 sounds to the children. As children move into Reception and through Years 1 and 2 they are assessed regularly to see which sounds they know and are placed into mixed year groups according to their sound knowledge. Children are assessed every half term by the Read Write Inc. lead; she listens to each individual child and assesses their sound knowledge, their ability to read these sounds in words that are both real and 'alien', as well as the speed at which they are reading. Most children will have secured a confident phonic knowledge by the time they leave Year 2; but those children who still need more practise will be assessed and will continue small group or 1:1 intervention support to further consolidate their knowledge as they move through Key Stage 2.

Children start with the Set 1 sounds and then progress - when they are ready - on to the Set 2 and then Set 3 sounds, according to the scheme. As well as teaching them to recognise the sound, the programme also teaches them to write the sounds down and spell words containing them. Alongside practising reading and spelling words and their sounds, the programme also helps the children to practise 'tricky words' such as 'have' and 'said'.

Each lesson starts by teaching or practising a sound relevant to the group that they are in, through saying, reading and writing. Children then work with a partner to read books that are specifically targeted to their ability and allow them to further practise reading and seeing the sounds they have learnt in the context of a story. These books are then sent home and can be read at home to help consolidate the learning that is taking place in school. At the end of each week on the school newsletter, links will be provided that will show you the sounds that your child has been learning in their groups that week. Practising these at home will not only help to consolidate their learning but will also show you how we are teaching them in school and how we use the sounds and blend them together to read the words. If you are uncertain how to pronounce a sound please use the following link which will take you through the different sounds and how to say them – video 3.

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parentsandcarers/>

At the start of the year, parents are invited into school for an information session about the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme and how to use the books that will be sent home, as well as an opportunity to practice saying the sounds. This session is run again during the spring term.

All staff who lead groups or intervention sessions have had up-to-date training provided by Read Write Inc. trainers. Senior leaders in the school

regularly go into sessions to do 'live' coaching alongside staff to ensure the quality and consistency of the lesson being taught across all the groups. Alongside this regular, coaching sessions take place outside of the lessons to allow staff to look regularly at and consider their practise.

We see teaching our children to read as the key to the rest of their learning journey. As such, we aim to get every child reading as quickly as possible and want to help them to foster and develop a love of books and the written word that can stay with them, not just through their education journey, but throughout their life.