

Welcome!

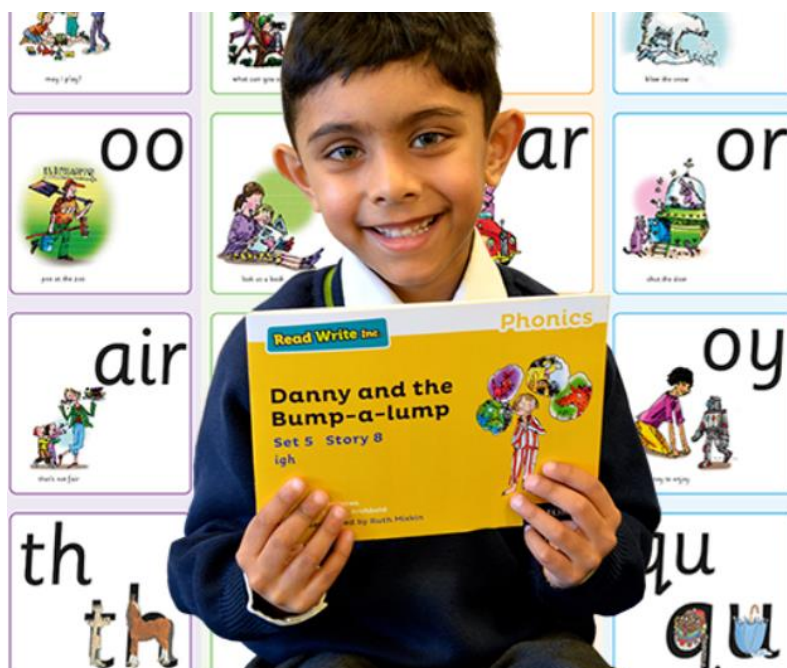
Willow Bank Infant School are dedicated to supporting your child with their reading and comprehension skills.

The first step, phonics!

In this pack, it will highlight the importance of children's phonetical knowledge and how **TOGETHER** we can support your child's development.

Read Write Inc.

Phonics



About our phonics programme.

At Willow Bank Infant School, we follow the amazing Ruth Miskin Read Write Inc. phonics programme.

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.

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to:

- Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes.
- Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'.
- Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see.

This is the first important step in learning to read.

Why is phonics important?

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way - starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex. Children who access phonics will learn the skills they need to tackle new words. They can then go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently, and to read for enjoyment

DfE (2012) Learning to read through phonics: information for parents.

What is my child's phonic learning like in school?

All children in EYFS and year 1 including some children in years 2, access phonics on a daily basis. Children are grouped together depending on what stage of learning they are currently at.

Throughout these lessons, children learn 3 new sounds and recap 2 sounds each week. This develops the children's recognition of sounds, blending, reading and spelling words.

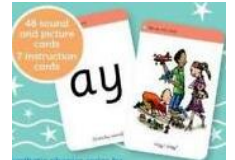


How can I help my child at home with their phonic learning?

There are lots of ways you can support your child from home.

It would be useful to purchase A set of "RWI speed sounds cards". These are available on amazon in sets. Set 1, set 2 and set 3.

On one side of the card displays the sound and words that include that sound. Children can continue their learning and well, just have some **fun** playing with them!



In this pack you will find:

1. **Speed sound mat** – this displays all the additional sounds on 1 A4 paper.
2. **Year 1 Phonics screening practice QR codes** – children can practice reading real and non-sense word.
3. **The RWI letter formation rhymes** – these are how we teach letter formation at school if you want to practise at home.

Online video lessons.

Every week, your child will have access to online RWI phonics lessons, each lesson is between 5-10 minutes long. We encourage your children to access these videos on a daily basis to continue their learning.



Set 1 - ch



Set 2 reading - igh (2)



Set 3 reading - oa (2)

Phonics screening practice QR codes.

Scan the QR codes on your phone and the children can practice reading real and non-sense words.

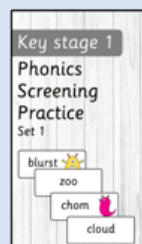
Dear Parent(s)/carers,

Please scan this QR code with any smart device to view your child's homework.

Your sincerely,



SCAN ME



What language to use when supporting children with their phonics.

'Special Friends'

Special friends are a combination of two or three letters representing one sound, e.g. ck, ay, igh, oa.

'Fred Talk'

Fred the Frog helps children read and spell. He can say the sounds in words, but he can't say the whole word, so children have to help him.

To help children read, Fred (the teacher) says the sounds and then children say the word.

For example, Fred says c-a-t, children say cat, Fred says l-igh-t, children say light.

Teachers are encouraged to use Fred Talk through the day, so children learn to blend sounds.

For example:

Play Simon Says: Put your hands on your h-ea-d/ f-oo-t/ kn-ee.

Put on your c-oa-t/ h-a-t/ s-c-ar-f.

Set the table with a b-ow-l/ f-or-k/ s-p-oo-n.

'Fred in your head'

Once children can sound out a word, we teach them to say the sounds silently in their heads.

We show them how to do this by:

1. Whispering the sounds and then saying the whole word;
2. Mouthing the sounds silently and then saying the whole word;
3. Saying the whole word straight away.

When the children are reading an unfamiliar word, encourage them to find and say the 'special friends' first. Then, allow the child to 'Fred talk. or use 'Fred in your head', before saying the word out loud.

How do I listen to my child read?

Your child has a Storybook matched to the sounds and words they know - a decodable book - so they should be able to read all the words.

Please avoid saying, "This book is too easy for you!" but instead say "I love how well you can read this book!"

'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', read the word

Remind your child to read words using 'Special Friends, Fred Talk, read the word'. For example 'ship': spot the 'sh', then Fred Talk and blend to read the word e.g. sh, sh-i-p, ship.

Red Words

Red Words are also known as common exception or tricky words. They occur in stories regularly (said, what, where) but have unusual letter combinations ('ai' in the word 'said' makes the sound 'e').

Remind your child not to use Fred Talk to read Red Words but instead to 'stop and think'.

Tell them the word if you need to.

Read the same book again and again

Children love reading the same book again and again. Their reading becomes speedier and they understand what they are reading.

- Encourage your child to read words using 'Fred in your head' (see glossary)
- Show your child how to read the story in a storyteller voice
- Share your enjoyment of the story when they read it again and again.

Year 1 Phonics screening check

The phonics screening check is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge.

There are two sections in this 40-word check. Your child will read up to four words per page for their teacher and they will probably do the check in one sitting of about 5-10 minutes. Although the check is compulsory, it isn't a formal test and is usually carried out by the class teacher, one-to-one, in a relaxed environment. The check also includes some nonsense words that are phonically decodable but are not real words. These check children's decoding skills, making sure they cannot guess the word.

The most important part of supporting your child's learning it to make it FUN!

Enjoy this time with your child, learning together, watching them shine and flourish with their reading!