



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

'Serving the Community'



Introduction to Phonics at Holy Family

Children who read regularly or 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 to 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 Holy Family we use Read Write Inc Phonics (RWI) to give your child the best possible start with their Literacy. We have put together a guide to how the RWI programme works.

What is Read Write Inc?

Read Write Inc (RWI) is a phonics complete Literacy 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 Holy Family we begin the programme in Nursery when they are ready 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/>.



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How will RWI be taught?

All children are assessed regularly by our RWI Lead teacher so they work with children at the same level. This allows complete participation in lessons.

Nursery

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

Reception

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

Reading

Children will,

- 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 answering 'Find It' and 'Prove It' discussion questions

Writing

Children will,

- 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

Children will,

- 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 for 25-30 minutes. Once children become fluent speedy readers they will move on to further develop their Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) and Comprehension skills.



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Five key principles underpin the teaching in all Read Write Inc sessions

Purpose – know the purpose of every activity and share it with the children, so they know the **one** thing they should be thinking about

Participation – ensure every child participates throughout the lesson. Partnership work is fundamental to learning

Praise – ensure children are praised for effort and learning, not ability

Pace – teach at an effective pace and devote every moment to teaching and learning

Passion – be passionate about teaching so children can be engaged emotionally.

Children will be taught how to read as follows

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.

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

Supporting Phonics at Home

- Try to spend at *least 5 minutes a day* doing 'sounds' activities.
- When blending words with your child, use only letter sounds, not letter names (alphabet) as this can be confusing for children learning to sound out words.
- Little and often is most effective.
- Point out letter sounds and words frequently; books, magazines, newspapers and signs etc, all provide the opportunity for sound recognition and put reading into context for your child.
- Allow your child to sound out and write words on the computer, using magnetic letter boards, chalk boards etc. Anything that interests them!



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RWI Home Reading Books

Children will bring home a RWI book linked closely to the sounds that they have been learning at school each week. This is called the **Phonics Reading Book** and is designed to develop fluency and accuracy of reading.

We hope this explains the ways in which we are teaching your child phonics and gives you ideas of ways in which you can support your child.

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.

<http://jollylearning.co.uk/> - Games and information for parents

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

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/> - fun games for the children to play

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

<http://www.starfall.com/> - fun games for the children to play

<http://www.firstschoolyears.com/> - fun games for the children to play

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