



Phonics Intent Statement 25-26

At John Wheeldon Primary Academy, we are passionate about ensuring all children become confident and enthusiastic readers and writers. We believe that phonics provides the foundations of learning to make the development into fluent reading and writing easier. Through daily, systematic, and consistent high quality phonics teaching, children learn to segment words to support their spelling ability and blend sounds to read words.

To allow our children to develop a strong phonic awareness with effective blending and decoding skills, we have chosen to use a synthetic phonics programme called Read, Write, Inc. produced by Ruth Miskin. Read Write Inc. is centered around letter sounds and phonics, blending sounds together to read and spell words and applying these skills across the curriculum. Using Read Write Inc (RWI) the children learn to read fluently so that they can put all their energy into comprehending what they read. We passionately believe that teaching children to read and write independently is one of the core purposes of a primary school. Enabling children to access a broad and exciting curriculum in which they can flourish and can be PROUD of what they do throughout their time at our school.

This is implemented through Daily phonics sessions, which start in reception. Where children will learn the sounds that each individual letter makes. Alongside this, children learn to assisted blend by listening to sounds orally blended by an adult. As children become more confident with their speed sound knowledge (individual sounds), they can read them effortlessly and then blend them together independently to read words. This is called 'Fred talk, read the word' which encourages them to sound them out and read the word in its entirety.

The children continue this learning through to year two or until they complete the programme. After learning the single sounds, Children learn digraphs or 'special friends' (which is two letters that make one sound such as sh or ch). They learn vowel digraph sounds and then alternative sounds to help them decode and read words accurately.

As they move through the programme, they read books in school and home, which are directly matched to their current learning. Pupils are introduced to different stories which contain words with the sounds they know along with the tricky 'red words' (tricky words are not decodable using phonics). Home reading books that are matched directly to their phonics group enables children to read with confidence and develop their fluency with sounds in words that they are already confident with and know well.

Each half term Children are assessed using RWI assessment tool that then groups them according to their current phonic knowledge. In-between each assessment points Teachers

will flag any children who have made accelerated progress and they can be moved prior to the next assessment point. Children who have fallen behind Age Related Expectation receive additional support to help them on their journey to becoming a confident reader, using 1:1 tutoring and/or interventions.

Children in year one take part in a Phonics Screening test which takes place in June. The check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learned sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard. The test consists of 40 words – it is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words) for the child to read 1:1 with their teacher. This is carried out by a member of staff who has undertaken the phonics testing training and who the children are familiar with. Children who do not pass this in Year 1 will be re-assessed in Year 2, in the same manner. The results of this are reported to parents in the summer term.

Through using RWI our aim is for all pupils, including the weakest readers, to make sufficient progress to meet or exceed age-related expectations and have a love of reading. Children will then become fluent readers by the end of Key Stage One. This way, children can focus on developing their confidence and comprehension as they move through the school. We aim, as a school, to expose our children to a wide range of stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction texts and give them the skills to help them to engage in a love of literature and an enjoyment of reading for their own pleasure and the learning opportunities reading brings.