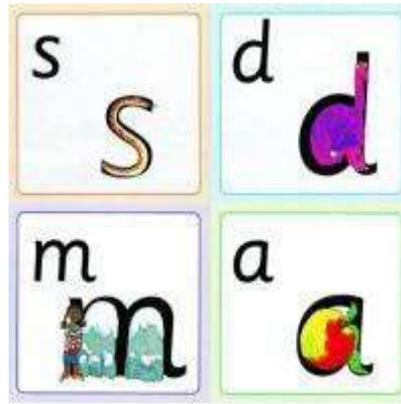


Phonics at Martin Primary School



When your child is first starting to read there are two crucial things to learn:

- the sounds (phonemes) represented by an individual written letter or groups of written letters (graphemes)
- how to blend (synthesise) the sounds together to make words.

All children in Reception and Year 1 are taught phonics through a systematic, synthetic approach, which build on the important foundations established in Nursery. Dedicated time is timetabled each day to the teaching of phonics to whole classes or groups: this is 20 minutes in Reception and 25 minutes per day in Year 1. Your child will be put into a phonics group appropriate to his/her level. This group may change as your child progresses and they will often be taught by teachers and staff who are not their class teachers.

In Year 2, all children have dedicated time each day to be taught Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) and phonics skills are further reinforced during this time. Intervention programmes take place within Year 2 and Key Stage 2 for those children yet to master their phonics knowledge.

We use materials produced by Read Write Inc. (RWI) for the systematic teaching of all the common sounds in the English language (44 in total) which RWI calls the 'speed sounds'. Children are taught to recognise the sounds and to put them together, or 'sound blend' them, into words for reading. These principles are rooted in the New Primary Curriculum (2014).

Reading opens the door to learning and our aim is to make *every* child a reader. Throughout the day your child will be exposed to a rich variety of quality texts and stories to develop their love of stories and storytelling.

In our dedicated phonics lessons the children:

- learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter/letter groups using simple picture prompts
- learn to read words using Fred Talk and Fred Fingers



- read lively stories featuring words they have learned to sound out
- show that they comprehend the stories by answering questions
- learn to write the letter/letter groups which represent 44 sounds
- learn to write words by saying the sounds in Fred Talk
- write simple sentences

RWI introduces the simple speed sounds (one sound, one grapheme) in speed sounds sets 1 and 2.

Speed Sounds Set 1

m - a - s - d - t - i - n - p - g - o - c - k - u - b - f - e - l - h - sh - r - j - v - y - w - th - z -
ch - qu - x - ng - nk

Speed Sounds Set 2

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

Children then learn more ways of writing the same sounds with the complex speed sounds set 3. At this stage, more emphasis is also put on children learning the letter names.

Speed Sounds Set 3

a-e - ea - i-e - o-e - u-e - aw - are - ur - er - ow - ai - oa - ew - ire - ear - ure -
tious - tion

What can you do to support your child?

- Read with your child and to your child every day
- Show them you enjoy books and sometimes model 'sounding out' words
- Take them to the library and expose them to a rich variety of quality books
- Tell them stories and help them make up stories
- Practise their speed sounds with them and tell them to 'Fred Talk' new words that they find hard to read
- Give plenty of praise for effort as well as the final outcome

Phonics workshops, which are designed to enable parents/carers help and support their children at home, are held regularly at school. There are also lots of support materials and tutorial videos available for Read Write Inc. (RWI) at the Ruth Miskin website.

Go to: <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>