

Phonics at Thomas Bewick

At Thomas Bewick Primary School we use Read Write Inc (RWI) to teach children to read.

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.



HOW WILL MY CHILD BE TAUGHT TO READ?

We start by teaching phonics to the children in the Reception class. This means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters. The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'red words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'.

The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'red words' they know. They start thinking that they can read and this does wonders for their confidence.

The teachers read to the children in story time everyday, so the children get to know all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps their writing.



HOW WILL MY CHILD BE TAUGHT TO READ?

Reading

The children:

- 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

The children:

- 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

The children 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



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 frog 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.

[Watch the video to see Fred in action!](#)

Here is a link to all 3 sets of sounds that your children will be learning whilst on Read Write Inc, you can practice these at home using the QR codes in your child's reading record.

[Download 'Saying the sounds' document](#)



TO HELP AT HOME:

Your child will start to bring books home when they begin to blend confidently. Please support your child by listening to them read every day.

Help your child to:

- read the sounds and words at the front of the book, before they read the story
- sound out any new words as they read the story.

Read back each page to them, after they have read it, to help with their understanding.

Encourage your child to read the story again each day to increase their fluency.

As well as listening to your child read, choose a story that you can read to them. Did you know that being read to develops children's comprehension and love of reading?

