

## Dear Parents,

At Ringway Primary we use the **Read Write Inc** (RWI) programme to get children off to a flying start with reading. This leaflet is designed to offer information about how you can help with your child's reading development at home. RWI is a phonic based approach to teaching reading. It involves children learning to read sounds and how to blend them together to read words.

The children learn 44 sounds (speed sounds). These are the letter **sounds** and not letter **names**. The speed sounds are divided into small groups. Once your child has learnt all of the sounds in one group, they can move on to *sound blending* the letters in that group to read words.

### The speed sound groups:

1. **m a s d t**
2. **i n p g o**
3. **c k u b**
4. **f e l h sh**
5. **r j v y w**
6. **th z ch qu x ng nk v y w**

For example, once your child has learnt to read the first 5 sounds: **m a s d t** they can then start to read words that include these sounds such as **mat, sat, sad, mad, at** etc. Your child will then learn the next five sounds and be able to read words with a combination of the ten sounds.

## Types of Sounds

### Pure sounds

When teaching the speed sounds it is **very important** that you do not add an intrusive 'uh' to the end of the consonant sound. Try to pronounce them as **pure** sounds: 'mmm' not 'muh', 'ffffff' not 'fuh' and 'lllll' not 'luh'.

This can be quite difficult to begin with but by ensuring only the pure sounds are pronounced, your child will find it much easier to *blend* the sounds to make words. There is a video that demonstrates this on *Youtube*: search for **Read Write Inc Pronunciation**.

### Bouncy and stretchy sounds

To help your child remember his or her sounds we say that some make a stretchy sound and some make a bouncy sound.

**Stretchy sounds** are said in one continuous sound, e.g. mmmmmmmmm as in mountain.

**Bouncy sounds** are said with a short sharp gap in between, e.g. d-d-d as in d-dd dinosaur.

### Sound blends

Your child is ready to sound blend once they have learnt the first set of sounds and can say these in and out of order. In school we call this Fred Talk. Fred Frog can only speak in sounds e.g. m-a-t and we say 'mat'.

## Letter Formation

Each sound which the children learn is accompanied by a phrase which enables the children to form it correctly. These handwriting phrases will be sent home each week to enable you to support your child with correct letter formation.



## Red and Green Words

Children will be introduced to 'Ditty books' when they successfully begin to read single words with confidence. Children use sound-blending (Fred Talk) to read short ditties. Children will then be challenged to use their developing phonic knowledge to write short sentences.

Within all the books children will have **red** and **green** words to learn to help them to become speedy readers.

**Red** words contain spelling patterns that cannot be *sounded out*. Some of the most frequently used words in the English language have an uncommon spelling pattern and don't sound like they look, for example, said sounds like 'sed'. Red words have to be learnt by sight.

**Green** words are linked to the sounds they have been learning and are easily decodable (these can be sounded out using Fred Talk).

I	the	at	mad
you	your	sad	dad
said	was	sat	mat

## Read Write Inc in Reception

In Reception children will take part in RWI sessions 4 times per week. They will initially be taught to read, recognise and write the speed sounds before using these to blend, read and write words containing them. Once children are fluent at recognising all speed sounds and have demonstrated the ability to blend independently they will begin to read 'Ditty books' containing the green and red words.

RWI homework will be sent home on a Thursday linking to the sounds which your child has focussed on in that particular week.



Ringway  
Primary



Read Write Inc.

A Parent's Guide