

## **How is Phonics taught at Mount Charles School?**

At Mount Charles School we teach phonics using Read, Write Inc. Phonics.

Read Write Inc. Phonics is a dynamic, vigorous programme that teaches children to read and write quickly and easily.

First, children learn the common sounds in the English language and how to sound-blend words for reading. At the same time, they develop skills of handwriting and spelling. They progress to read and comprehend lively storybooks containing words that they can decode so they achieve early success in reading.

A key element of the Read Write Inc. approach is that practice across the school is completely consistent. This is achieved because every member of staff is highly trained, coached and supported to be an expert in the teaching of reading. Children are grouped by ability allowing lessons to specifically address individual learning needs.

Here is a short video to show how Phonics is taught at Mount Charles School.

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/parent-tutorial-1-understanding-read-write-inc-phonics/>

It is very important that children pronounce the sounds correctly. Listen to this so that you give the best guidance you can.

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/sound-pronunciation-guide/>

(Possibly embedded into a hyperlink??)

Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will learn at Mount Charles School.

Everything else depends on it so we work hard to make sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as they can. We want your child to love reading for the rest of their lives so we ensure they develop a love of books as well as just learning to read.

**How will my child be taught to read?**

We start by teaching Phonics to children as a whole class in EYFS. This means that they learn how to read the sounds in words and how these sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading but it also helps them to learn to spell. The children also learn how to read and spell what we call red words – those that cannot be sounded out, like the, was or could.

When they are ready, children start reading books that include the phonic words and red words that they already know. Reading books with words they know helps to build their confidence and their love of reading. Teachers also read many different types of books to them each day so that they are exposed to a wide range of words.

### **How will I know how well my child is doing?**

We will let you know how your child is doing. We use various ways to find out how well the children are progressing in reading and we aim to ensure that all children are in the correct groups for their learning needs. Your child will work with other children who are reading at the same level as him/her. Children will move to a different group if that suits their needs more. Children needing extra support will receive intervention.

### **What is Phonics Screening?**

In the Summer term of Year 1 the Government asks us to do a Phonics check with all of the Year 1 children. This is carried out by a known adult and in a relaxed way so that every child can enjoy the process. This check gives us extra information about how your child is doing and will be reported to you. If your child needs extra support as a result, this will continue into Year 2 and beyond.

### **How long does it take to learn to read well?**

This varies for each child so there is no set rule. Children receive Phonics teaching for as long as they require it and we do not encourage comparison between children as this is not helpful.

### **How do I know that my child will receive good teaching?**

All staff have been trained to deliver RWInc Phonics. Senior teachers watch all phonics leaders teaching phonics to ensure that teaching is of a high standard. Also we regularly invite RWInc trainers into Mount Charles School to check on our teaching and the progress children are making.

### **What can I do to help?**

Come along to the events we run during the year to help you support your child at home.

Read to your child every day so that they learn that reading is a wonderful thing and grow up loving books. Share different types of books with your child and explain unfamiliar words to them.

Help your child to sound out unknown words and blend the sounds to make words.

Try not to use letter names, but encourage the use of sounds.

Ensure your child is in school promptly every day. Even missing one or two sessions will disadvantage your child as lessons move forwards with pace. Missing sessions can make children less confident.

### **My child has difficulty pronouncing sounds. Does that mean they can't read?**

Many children at this age have trouble pronouncing some sounds so please don't worry. We learn quickly which sounds are tricky for each child and then we know what they are trying to say.

You can encourage them to watch your mouth as you say sounds.

Here are the letters of the alphabets and the sayings that help children remember how to form them.

<http://www.thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Letter-formation-chart.pdf>