



Dear parents,

The children in Foundation and Year 1 have now started their phonics lessons. As some of you know, at Marlborough, we use a programme called Read Write Inc. that helps children to learn to read and write successfully.

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

This document will explain more about how we teach reading using this programme.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children hear, identify and use the different sounds that distinguish one word from another.

See the following 3 minutes video to find out more RWI phonics:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXOJUPNVnLc>

How do we do it?

Every morning, the children will be learning one new sound and then, putting those into simple words. We make the sessions as interesting and active as possible using a pet toy called 'Fred the Frog'. Once the children start getting more confident with their sounds and start blending these into simple words, we will be sending home little 'Ditty Books' that will have words with the sounds they already know, so they can practise their reading at home.

How can I support my child to learn Set 1 sounds and to blend?

- Use pure sounds, not letter names. Watch the 'how to say the sounds' parent film on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q>

Or: <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>

- Practise reading known Set 1 *Speed Sounds* cards speedily. If needed, show your child the picture side of the card to help them remember the sound.

Does it matter if my child misses a lesson or two?

It matters a lot if your child misses school. The way we teach children to read is very well organised, so even one missed lesson means that your child has not learnt something that they need to know to be a good reader.

How can I help my child to practise their handwriting?

Remind your child:

- To hold their pencil in 'perfect pencil grip'. (* see attached picture)
- Say the handwriting phrase to help them form the letter correctly – see Handwriting Phrases on <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>

Challenge your child to see how many sounds they can write in a minute.
Say the sound and children write e.g. 'write m', 'write s', 'write t'...

***Pencil grip development**



Which sounds have the children learnt so far?

FOUNDATION children (Reception Class) have learnt these sounds so far: m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, g.

We will let you know daily which sound they learnt on the day.

Year 1 Children have continue their learning as started in Foundation and are rapidly catching up with the sounds they had forgotten.

What resources can I buy to support my child’s reading and writing at home?

You can purchase the below from Amazon to support your child with blending at home:

- Set 1/2/3 flashcards
- My Reading and Writing Kit age 3-5 – Set 1 Speed Sounds and blending.



What do I do with the picture books?

Point at the title, spot a sound or make different voices. There are many things you can do. Below some tips for reading stories to your child.

Ten top tips for reading stories to your child

- 1 Make reading to your child feel like a treat.
Introduce each new book with excitement.
- 2 Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so both of you can see the book.
- 3 Show curiosity in what you're going to read:
Oh no! I think Arthur is going to get even angrier now.
- 4 Read the whole story the first time through without stopping too much. If you think your child might not understand something, model an explanation:
Oh I think what's happening here is that...
- 5 Chat about the story:
I wonder why he did that?
Oh no, I hope she's not going to...
I wouldn't have done that, would you?
- 6 Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- 7 Link stories to your own experiences (e.g. *This reminds me of...*)
- 8 Read favourite stories over and over again.
Get your child to join in with the bits they know.
- 9 Read with enthusiasm. Don't be embarrassed to try out different voices. Your child will love it.
- 10 Read with enjoyment.
If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.

