



## **Reading and Phonics Policy**

### **How we teach reading**

At Edmondsley Primary School we want our children to be fluent, confident and passionate readers. Reading enables your child to become an independent life-long learner.

Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will learn at 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 work hard to make sure children develop a love of books, as well as learning to read.

At Edmondsley Primary and Nursery School we use the Department for Education's accredited 'Read Write Inc. Phonics' programme.

We start to learn to read by teaching phonics to children in Nursery, who are developmentally ready – usually in the summer term before they start Reception Class. Prior to this programme, our Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum includes activities which help children prepare them for reading (and writing).

### **What is Read, Write, Inc?**

Read, Write, Inc Phonics programme is a synthetic phonics programme that teaches children the sounds in English, the letters that represent them, and how to form the letters when writing. Read Write Inc. Phonics includes reading books written using only the letters they have learnt at each level (and a small number of separately taught tricky words such as 'said' and 'the'). The children quickly feel confident and successful.

### **A brief overview -**

Nursery –

- When appropriate, adults will model the sounds letters make whilst writing children's names on their paintings/pictures etc.
- Usually in the summer term, children will be introduced to the initial sounds in short sessions and learn how to write the letters using rhymes to help them.

#### Reception –

- Children will learn how to read the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down.
- Children will learn the 44 sounds and the corresponding letters/letter groups using simple picture prompts (See below)
- Words are read using Fred Talk and sound blending
- Children read a range of storybooks and non fiction books matched to their phonic knowledge.

#### Year 1 and 2 –

Children will learn to read complex sounds and read books appropriate to their reading level. Daily sessions of RWI phonics take place.

Even before your child starts to read, we encourage Nursery family members to choose books from our Nursery 'library' and from Reception class we send home 'reading for pleasure' books. These books are for parents to read and enjoy with their children, talking about pictures and the stories. We continue to send these books home throughout your child's journey through school to foster the love of reading and encourage the children to choose books they are interested in.

Teachers regularly read to the children, too, so the children get to know and love all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. This helps to extend children's vocabulary and comprehension, as well as supporting their writing.

#### How is RWI organised at Edmondsley Primary School?

RWI sessions in nursery are short and usually take place in the summer term before children begin Reception Class. Very small groups of children take part in a session at the same time.

From Reception until the end of Year 2, your child will work with children who are at the same reading level. This is so that the teaching can be focussed on the correct stage of their learning rather than their chronological age. This also means they are in small groups with a lower child to adult ratio. Some older children will continue to

access the Read Write Inc. Phonics programmes if they need further consolidation and development of reading skills.

We assess children's reading skills each half term so we can ensure they are in the most appropriate group. Children will move to a different group if they are making faster progress or may have one-to-one tutoring if we think they need some additional support.

In Key Stage 2 (years 3, 4, 5 and 6), the children undertake daily reading lessons (lasting 30 minutes). Three of these lessons are led by a teacher focusing on understanding and comprehension whilst two use the Reading Plus programme to build fluency and speed of reading. The children have a wide selection of reading materials to choose from and take part in projects linked to reading, with reward systems in place for encouragement.

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

Every child is different and children will learn to read at different speeds. By the end of Year 2, most children will be able to read aloud books that are at the right level for his or her age and the children will have a good understanding of the story.

In the summer term of Year 1, the government asks us to do a phonics check of all the children. We will let you know how your child has done in the end of year reports. Children who do not pass the phonics check in Year 1 retake the assessment during Year 2 to ensure that they have made progress. We will also inform you of these results.

### **What does school offer to give my child reading incentives?**

Once your child has completed the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme, classes read shared texts where reading and writing combine, providing children with a deeper understanding of texts. Books are carefully chosen to meet the needs and interests of the cohort as well as keeping in line with National Curriculum guidelines. Texts used often link into our wider curriculum, with history, geography and social themes proving to be particularly popular with our pupils.

Children's progression through the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme and subsequently the reading schemes is rewarded and celebrated through certificates. Though the gift of being able to read is reward in itself!

In school, the children have access to a wide range of books both to improve and build reading as well as for reading for pleasure. School have made a significant

investment in a range of books to encourage your child to read texts suited to their own personal interests. Book schemes include: Bug Club, Oxford Reading Tree and Collins Big Cat but we primarily use Oxford Owl books which complement our Read Write Inc scheme. Children are encouraged to read at least three times a week at home.

### **What can parents/carers do to help?**

Nursery parents can use the rhymes which help their child to form the letters of their name correctly. Our Nursery Teacher will provide information on this as soon as your child is showing an interest in writing their name.

Sound	Rhyme
m	Down Maisie then over the two mountains. Maisie, mountain, mountain.
a	Round the apple, down the leaf.
s	Slide around the snake.
d	Round the dinosaur's back, up his neck and down to his feet.
t	Down the tower, across the tower.
i	Down the insect's body, dot for the head.
n	Down Nobby and over the net.
p	Down the plait, up and over the pirates face.
g	Round the girls face, down her hair and give her a curl.
o	All around the orange.
c	Curl around the caterpillar
k	Down the kangaroo's body, tail and leg.
u	Down and under the umbrella, up to the top and down to the puddle.
b	Down the laces, over the toe and touch the heel.
f	Down the stem and draw the leaves.
e	Slice into the egg, go over the top, then under the egg.
l	Down the long leg.
h	Down the horse's head to the hooves and over his back
sh	Slither down the snake, then down the horse's head to the hooves and over his back.
r	Down the robot's back, then up and curl.
j	Down his body, curl and dot.
v	Down a wing, up a wing.
y	Down a horn, up a horn and under the yak's head.
w	Down, up, down, up the worm.
th	Down the tower, across the tower, then down the horse's head to the hooves and over his back.
z	Zig-zag-zig, down the zip.
ch	Curl around the caterpillar, then down the horse's head to the hooves and over his back.
qu	Round the queen's head, up to her crown, down her hair and curl.
x	Cross down the arm and leg and cross the other way.
ng	A thing on a string.
nk	I think I stink

Parents can also help by using the correct sounds for their child's name and not using letter names. For example, 'm' not 'muh', 's' not 'suh' 'm' not 'EM' 's' not 'ES'

Within the first two weeks of your child starting Reception, you will be invited to a meeting so that we can explain further how we teach reading and share the resources we use. During the meeting, there are lots of suggestions on how you can help your child to read. Your support really does get your child off to a flying start and encourages them to make great progress!

You can help your child to sound out the letters in words (Fred Talk) and then to 'blend' the sounds together to make a whole word. Try not to refer to the letters by their names. Help your child to focus on the sounds. Use the sound links that are sent to you by the class teacher. You can also hear how to say the sounds correctly by searching on YouTube for 'Read Write Inc. Phonemes Pronunciation Guide'. These 'speed sounds' are used throughout school – even in upper Key Stage 2 – and also link into spelling work, a good understanding of these sounds really does make a difference!

Sometimes your child might bring home a book that they already know well. Please don't say, 'This is too easy,' as they may have chosen that because they enjoy it! Instead, encourage your child to tell you the story out loud; ask them questions about things that happen or what they think about some of the characters in the story.

Make reading fun! Remember to keep reading to your child. They will come across far more adventurous words than they will in their early reading books and you will be helping them to grow a vast vocabulary, develop a deeper understanding of different stories etc. It will also encourage them to love books and want to read more; if a child sees and hears an adult reading, they are inspired by them!

### **When will my child bring home books?**

Your child will be given a new book bag when they start in Reception class. This bag should be brought to school each day and taken to their Read Write Inc. Phonics group. Once your child is reading, they will bring home a new reading book and a 'reading for pleasure' book usually once per week. Please listen to your child read as often as you can. Reading the same book more than once, helps your child develop fluency, confidence, expression and a better comprehension of the story. Please record each time you hear your child read in their reading records.

### **What if my child finds it difficult to learn to read?**

We want every child to learn to read, however long it takes us to teach them. We will find out very quickly if your child is finding reading difficult as we track progress and assess regularly. If they need more help, we may provide extra 1:1 support in the form of 1:1 tutoring and/or additional 'pinny' time.

If we have any concerns about your child's reading, we will talk to you about this.

Remember, all children are individual so some children take a little longer to learn to blend sounds together to read a word, e.g. c-a-t to make the word 'cat'. We plan to hold regular meetings throughout the year to help you support your child in learning to read.

If you have any further queries about how we teach reading, please don't hesitate to get in touch; your class teacher can offer help, or alternatively Mrs Anderson leads the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme in school and Mrs Wood leads our English subject provision.