



At The Ellis we teach phonics through the Read Write Inc programme, beginning in FS1 and continuing through FS2 and Year 1 until children are ready to progress onto the Read Write Inc Spelling Programme. Children are placed into small groups and undertake daily sessions with a member of teaching staff.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children to hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another in the English language. It also teaches children how to represent these sounds through written letters. Through phonics sessions children are taught both the **phoneme** (sound) and **grapheme** (written letter or letters). They are then given time to practise reading and writing these sounds in words. All words are made up of individual sounds which are merged together to form words. We use 44 sounds to make up all the words in the English language. Many of these sounds can be spelt in multiple ways (over 150 representations in total) such as the sound 'ee' (as in **sleep**) which can be spelt an incredible 13 different ways including 'ee / ea / e / ey / e_e' Our Read Write Inc sessions help children to learn these 44 sounds and alternative ways to spell them in a fun, engaging and practical way.

Understanding phonics video link: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/read-write-inc-phonics--1/understanding-phonics-video>

Set 1 Sounds

We begin in FS1 teaching the children to hear and distinguish sounds around them. This includes listening to and distinguishing between environmental and instrumental sounds, hearing rhythm and rhyme, alliteration and sounds in words. Once children have mastered this skill, we move on to introducing our Set 1 sounds where children learn to hear initial sounds in words and match these to the written grapheme. Each sound has a picture prompt to help them remember the letter and understand how to write them.

m	a	s	d	t
i	n	p	g	o
c	k	u	b	f
e	l	h	sh	r
j	v	y	w	th
z	ch	qu	x	ng

Blending words

Once children have started to learn several of the Set 1 sounds, we teach children how to blend sounds together to read CVC (consonant – vowel – consonant) words such as 'cat' 'dog' 'pin' 'tap'. Children learn to say the individual sounds and then blend them together to read the word. E.g. children sound out the individual sounds sh-o-p and then blend them together to read 'shop'.

Blending words video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNyFikwNQTg&safe=active>

Segmenting words

Alongside blending words for reading, we teach children to segment words into their individual sounds for spelling. E.g. the word 'log' can be segmented into l-o-g which helps the child learn to spell the word using the sounds they can hear.

Pure sounds

We teach children to say their sounds in a 'pure way' as this helps them to blend and segment words. Children are taught that some letters are bouncy (e.g. d, b, c, h) and others are stretchy (e.g. s, l, f, m). We teach the children to say the sound 's' as 'ssssss' rather than 'suh'.

Video link showing how to pronounce the pure sounds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q&safe=active>

Bouncy sounds	Stretchy sounds
b, c, k, d, g, h, j, p, q, t, w, x, y, a, e, u, i, o	f, l, m, n, r, s, v, z, sh, th, ng, nk

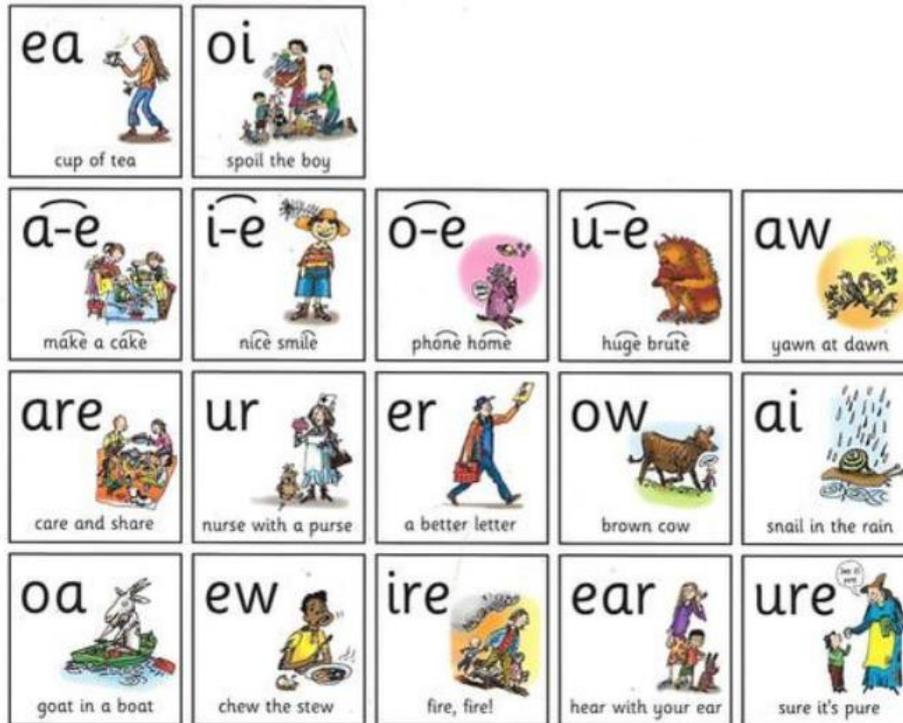
Set 2 and Set 3 Sounds

Once confident with the Set 1 sounds, we begin the 12 Set 2 sounds. These are made up of two or three letters which represent one sound e.g. igh (as in sigh) and oo (as in moon or book) and we call these 'special friends'.



In order to help children remember these phonemes and graphemes, each one has a simple picture prompt linked to the sound and a simple phrase. Our children have even devised actions for each one which we love to perform as we practise the sounds!

Then we introduce our Set 3 sounds which introduce the alternative sounds / graphemes e.g. ai (as in rain) and a_e (as in same).



What else do we do in our sessions?

Green Words

Meet Fred (who attends every Read Write Inc session!) He can only talk in pure sounds and helps the children to decode words by sounding them out and blending them together (Fred Talk). Our green word cards are used every session to help children sound out words and blend them together.



at	mad
sad	dad
sat	mat

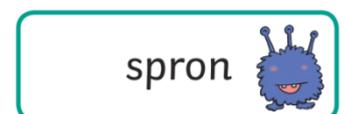
Red Words – It's Hard to Fred a Red!

These are the tricky words which are difficult to sound out and which need to be learnt. We do regular practise on these so that children learn to read them on sight and write them from memory.

I	the
you	your
said	was

Nonsense words (Alien words)

As children become more confident with their sounds, they are then able to apply their decoding skills to any word whether it be real or nonsense. When the word is an alien (nonsense word) they have to apply their phonic knowledge as they are not able to rely on real words they already know. This is an important part of the Phonics Screening Check children complete at the end of Year 1.



Ditties and Books

In our Read Write Inc sessions from FS2 upwards, we also practise reading ditties (short phrases which children can sound out and blend) and storybooks which are closely matched to the sounds they are currently working on.

Hold a sentence

Children are also given regular opportunities to practise writing a given sentence which includes the sounds they are currently learning. This enables them to practise saying the sentence, remembering it, segmenting the words into individual sounds and matching the sounds to the written grapheme.

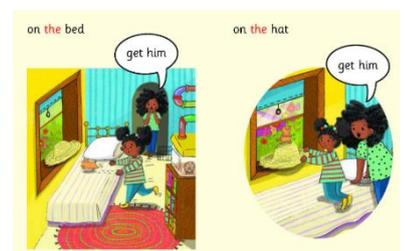
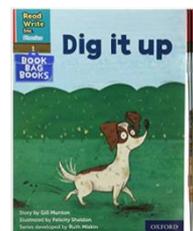
Books to take home

Once children are ready, we will send books home to support their development of phonics.

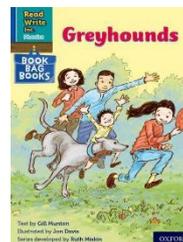
We begin with sound blending books which allow the children the chance to practise sounding out words and blending them together.



When children are confident blending simple words, we move on to red ditty books which consist of short phonetical phrases.



Finally, we send home the Read Write Inc Book Bag books which have 7 different levels, increasing in difficulty each time.



Once children have completed the Read Write Inc phonics programme they begin our Spelling Programme.

Additional Information

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

Teaching Set 1 sounds video link: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/read-write-inc-phonics--1/set-1-sound-phonics-video>

Independent blending video link: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/read-write-inc-phonics--1/independent-blending-phonics-video>

Two letters, one sound video link: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/read-write-inc-phonics--1/two-letters-one-sound-phonics-video>

Teaching blending video link: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/read-write-inc-phonics--1/sound-blending-phonics-video>