



6 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Corsham Primary, we believe that reading (alongside speaking, listening and writing) is a fundamental life skill, which enables children to communicate effectively in all areas and equips them for the challenges they will face in the wider world.

Our aim is for all children in Key Stage 1 to leave as confident readers through our rigorous approach but we also aim to develop children as life-long readers.

In Year 1, we will continue to teach reading through a Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programme (SSPP) called 'Read Write Inc.' or 'RWI'.

RWI is an approach to learning centred around letter sounds and **phonics**; blending sounds together to read and write words, and using these learnt sounds to support with **reading, spelling and writing**.

Phonics Screening Check

Through the RWI program, all children in EYFS and Key Stage One are assessed half-terminally, to ensure they are reading books at an appropriate level. The children's ongoing progress is carefully monitored to support staff in quickly identifying children who need additional reading and phonics support.

In the summer term of Year 1, the children sit a Phonic Screening Check. The check is done on a 1:1 basis with a known adult. The children have 20 real words and 20 pseudo (nonsense) words to read. The way that the children learn to read in RWI (spotting any special friends, Fred Talk, say the word) means that they are well-prepared for this.

Any children who do not pass the phonic screening check in Year 1 continue to be monitored closely and are supported with regular one-to-one tutoring, helping to ensure the vast majority of children leave Key Stage One knowing their sounds.

Phonically-decodable RWI books

Fred Talk helps children read unfamiliar words by pronouncing each sound in the word one at a time. They do lots of practice of this in their daily RWI Phonics Lessons.

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The children are given phonically-decodable RWI books to share with you at home. These books are closely matched to their known sounds. This enables them to read all the words and show an understanding of what they're reading. Reading each book three times, allows the children to read each book with confidence and take on the role of a storyteller, by being able to read with increasing fluency, intonation and expression.

Reading at Home Expectations:

In Year 1, the expectation for reading at home is between 10 and 20 minutes per evening (reading to an adult). Children reading pink, red, yellow, blue, green and orange book band need to read their book at home 3 times:

1st read: focus on **decoding** (sounding out)

2nd read: read with **fluency** (speed and accuracy)

3rd read: show **comprehension** (read with expression and an understanding of what is being read)

In addition to their RWI books, children will be encouraged to read a wider selection of texts. We want all our children to have a love of reading so we encourage our families to enjoy reading anything and everything at home: favourite books, e-books, library books, recipes, road signs, subtitles on children's films or TV programs, cereal boxes, logos, menus etc.

Your participation with fluency development is greatly appreciated. Happy reading!

For more information about RWI, please use the following link:

[Parent guide to Read Write Inc. Phonics | Oxford Owl](https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/)

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Yours faithfully

Rebecca Palmer

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