



## **The Importance of Phonics in Early Reading**

At Mulberry Wood Wharf, we believe that a strong foundation in reading is essential for every child's academic and personal development. Phonics is a key element in building this foundation, as it teaches children how to decode words, making reading accessible and enjoyable.

Phonics helps children to:

- Recognise the sounds that letters and letter combinations make.
- Blend these sounds together to read full words.
- Develop confidence and fluency as they begin to read more complex texts.

Through phonics, children gain the skills they need to become independent readers, which supports their learning across all areas of the curriculum.

## **Our Phonics Program: Read Write Inc.**

To teach phonics effectively, we use the Read Write Inc. (RWI) program. Read Write Inc. is a systematic, synthetic phonics program designed by literacy experts to help children progress quickly in their reading and writing skills. This program is highly engaging, structured, and proven to deliver results for children of all abilities.

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

Read Write Inc. is a comprehensive phonics and literacy program that teaches children:

- **Sounds (Phonemes):** Children learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter or letter groups (graphemes). These sounds form the building blocks of the English language, which children will use to decode and spell words.
- **Blending and Segmenting:** Children learn to blend individual sounds together to read words and to segment words into individual sounds to write them.
- **High-Frequency Words:** Through repetition and practice, children memorize high-frequency words that may not follow typical phonics patterns, supporting their reading fluency.
- **Comprehension:** Alongside phonics, Read Write Inc. incorporates comprehension activities to help children understand what they are reading.

## **How We Implement Read Write Inc. at MULberry Wood Wharf Primary**

### **1. Daily Phonics Sessions**

- a. Children in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 take part in daily Read Write Inc. sessions. These lessons are fun, engaging, and involve a combination of listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities.
- b. Lessons are structured to provide plenty of practice and repetition, helping children master each set of sounds before moving on to the next.

## **2. Small Group Instruction**

- a. Children are grouped by their phonics ability so they can learn at the pace that's right for them. Groups are regularly assessed and adjusted to ensure each child is making progress.
- b. This targeted approach allows teachers to provide focused support where it's needed most, ensuring all children are building confidence and achieving success.

## **3. Reading Books Matched to Ability**

- a. Each child is provided with phonics-based reading books that match the sounds and words they are currently learning. This means children are reading texts they can decode independently, building both fluency and confidence.
- b. As children progress through the program, they will be introduced to new books that reinforce their developing skills, allowing for a seamless transition from phonics-based readers to broader reading material.

## **4. Parental Involvement**

- a. We know that parents play an important role in supporting children's reading. We offer workshops and provide resources to help parents understand the Read Write Inc. program and how they can reinforce phonics learning at home.
- b. Parents can also help by practicing reading at home and engaging in conversations about the sounds, words, and stories children encounter in school.

## **5. Assessment and Progress Tracking**

- a. Regular assessments are conducted to monitor each child's progress in phonics. This helps us to identify any children who need additional support or targeted intervention to reach their reading potential.
- b. Teachers use assessment information to tailor instruction, ensuring every child is moving forward in their reading journey.

### **What You Can Expect from Read Write Inc.**

Read Write Inc. builds confident readers who enjoy reading and feel prepared for further learning. As children advance through the program, they will:

- Develop a solid understanding of phonics, decoding, and word recognition.
- Build fluency and expression in their reading.
- Gain confidence to read texts that challenge them, opening a world of stories and information.

### **Learn More**

If you'd like more information about our approach to phonics, the Read Write Inc. program, or ways to support reading at home, please feel free to or speak with your child's teacher. We are committed to

making sure that every child at Mulberry Wood Wharf has the tools they need to become a successful reader.