Learning to read at Clayton CE

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will do in the early years of primary school. Your child's progress in all subject areas depends on their ability to read.

At Clayton, we have chosen the **Read Write Inc phonics** programme as the basis for teaching phonics and reading.

WHAT IS PHONICS?

We begin by helping children to hear the sounds in words.
In Nursery we play lots of games; we sing songs and rhymes; we sort pictures and objects by their first sound. We learn to rhyme and recognise rhymes. This is the first stage of the phonics process.

We move on in Nursery to teach children to recognise some letters – saying the sound the letter makes. Children learn to hear the sounds and blend them together to make simple words e.g. m-a-t

In Reception class children continue to learn to read letter sounds and blend the sounds together to make simple words. We break words into sounds to spell them.

Set 1 speed sounds are taught in the following order:
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 nk

What can I do to help? Is there anything that I shouldn't do?
Help your child to sound out the letters in words 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 the letters make.

Read, Write Inc provide a video on YouTube to help parents and teachers to pronounce the speech sounds (phonemes) correctly to help children to blend. See below.



How does the scheme progress?

The children continue to learn the letter sounds at quite a rapid pace. As they learn to blend more efficiently, they begin to read short phrases and sentences in the lessons called “ditties.”



Soon the children begin to have books to read in their phonics lessons. These are carefully matched to the phonics the children are learning. They read the books again and again over several lessons in order

to gain fluency. Once the children can read the books easily, they are taught to answer questions about the book.

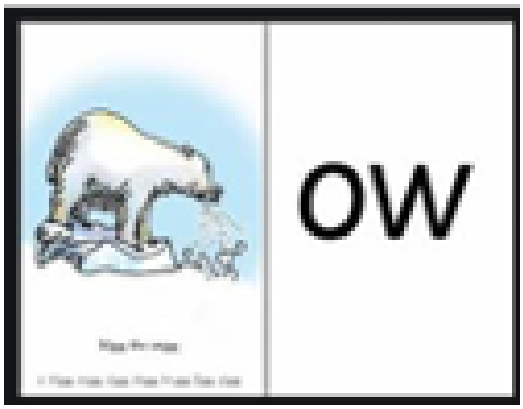
More information about the "speed sounds"

Once your child knows all Set 1 sounds by sight and sound and can read words by blending, we start to teach Set 2.

Your child is now learning that sounds are often spelled with more than one letter; in phonics, we call these "special friends." These "digraphs" are read as one sound (we do not read each letter by itself – just as we read /sh/ as sh - not s-h).

There is a little rhyme to accompany each set 2 sound; this helps your child to remember them.

ay	may I play?
ee	what can you see?
igh	fly high
ow	blow the snow
oo	poo at the zoo
oo	look at a book
are	start the car
or	shut the door
air	that's not fair
ir	whirl and twirl
ou	shout it out
oy	toy for a boy



Next, we teach set 3 speed sounds – your child is now learning that vowel sounds can be spelled in more than one way; e.g. ay (may I play) ai (snail in the rain) a-e (bake a cake).
This knowledge is important to help your child to spell well.

ea	cup of tea	ow	brown cow
oi	spoil the boy	ai	snail in the rain
a-e	make a cake	oa	goat in a boat
i-e	nice smile	ew	chew the stew
o-e	phone home	ire	fire! fire!
u-e	huge brute	ear	hear with your ear
aw	yawn at dawn	ure	sure it's pure
are	share and care	tion	celebration
ur	purse for a nurse	tious	scrumptious delicious
er	a better letter	cious	
ow	brown cow	e	he we she be
ai	snail in the rain		

Phonics is not just learning to recognise sounds; it is a set of skills

1. Hearing speech sounds
2. Blending sounds to make words for reading
3. Segmenting, breaking words into sounds for spelling

We have chosen the Read Write Inc programme because it teaches all these skills systematically and carefully to get your child off to a flying start with reading. The daily phonics lesson is just part of the teaching programme we have at Clayton to support your child's reading. We continue to use the Read Write Inc programme with pupils who still need to complete the programme in KS2.

We know parents and carers are very busy people. We are so grateful when you make time to read with your child at home. The more reading a child does, the more words they learn and the more knowledge they acquire.

You can do more simple things to help;

1. Make sure your child is in school on time – phonics is taught first thing in the morning
2. Bring your child's reading book to school each day and read it at home each evening – re-read it each day until your child is fluent
3. Make reading a happy time – read to your child as well as asking them to read to you

Visit these parents' websites for more information

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s