

Teaching Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to:

- ❖ recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- ❖ identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'
- ❖ blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word

Children can then use this knowledge to read new words they hear or see. This is the first step in learning to read.

How do we teach Phonics?

We use *Read Write Inc. Phonics*, developed by Ruth Miskin. This programme provides a structured and systematic approach to the teaching of phonics. It is taught daily in Reception and Key Stage 1 and can be used as a support tool in Key Stage 2. Already we have seen accelerated progress in children's reading and writing which has led to a greater investment in resources and staff training to build further onto the success of this programme.

Please click on the link below for more information:

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/read-write-inc-programmes/phonics/>

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check is a quick and easy check of each child's phonics' knowledge. It helps our school to confirm whether a child has made the '**expected**' progress.

The check usually takes place in the first 2 weeks of June. Check the link below for the current year's test dates.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-1-and-key-stage-2-test-dates>

The Phonics Screening Check is a list of 40 words (some real words and some non-words) that children read one-to-one with a teacher. Children may have read some of the words before, whilst others will be completely new. Non-words are important to use because words such as '**jap**' or '**jound**' are new to all children and therefore cannot be read by memory. The check normally takes just a few minutes to complete and there is no time limit. If a child is struggling, the teacher will stop the check.

Children who have not met the standard in year 1 will retake the Phonics Check in year 2.

Please see your child's class teacher if you require more information about Phonics and the Screening Check.

