



Phonics at CPS

How is phonics taught at CPS?

Phonics at CPS is taught using the Read Write Inc Scheme and an additional phonics for spelling programme.

How often is phonics taught?

Phonics and spelling is taught daily through EYFS and KS1. EYFS children will have five 20-30 minute grouped sessions a week. Children in years 1 and 2 will have three 30 minute ability grouped sessions as well as two sessions in mixed ability groups. These additional sessions will focus on the spelling of common exception words (those words which cannot be easily decoded such as what, was etc).

What is Read Write Inc?

Read write Inc is a structured synthetic phonics scheme written by experts. It is used nationally with proven results. Read Write Inc follows a prescriptive teaching structure whereby children are taught phonic sounds in a systematic, structured way before being taught how to segment and blend using them. It is supported by a series of decodable texts used both in the classroom and at home.

What is the philosophy behind Read Write Inc?

Read Write Inc necessitates that all staff are trained specifically in how to teach using the scheme. It follows a rigid structure which is the same in which ever group the children are placed in. Children are taught sounds (phonemes) through pictures and captions; this supports them in embedding the sounds. The scheme provides specific guidance on the order in which sounds should be taught. Children constantly revise sounds whilst being introduced to new sounds. They then read words which they can decode daily, firstly through supported segmenting and blending and eventually by sight. They also spell these words with specific support with segmenting for spelling. Children are also taught to read and spell words which are not phonetically regular. Children are introduced to the Read Write Inc books when they can segment and blend. These books never contain sounds that the children haven't had significant practice using so children won't be exposed to books using the digraphs they have just learnt but instead will read books which consolidate segmenting and blending using previously taught sounds. Read Write Inc is taught in ability groups.

How are children grouped?

The children are grouped using a specific assessment. These assessments happen half termly but children can move groups at any point in the scheme should the group leader feel it necessary. Children who are assessed as being above the Read Write Inc scheme are assessed using a separate spelling inventory. EYFS and KS1 are grouped separately with 6 Read Write Inc Groups in each phase. An additional 3 spelling groups in KS1 provide for those children who no longer need to access the scheme?





Where can I find out my child's group?

You will receive a letter informing you of your child's group. This will tell you the name of their teacher and the colour band book they will be reading. Should your child need to move groups, your child's class teacher will let you know.

What do children do when they are no longer on the scheme?

When children can segment and blend proficiently using all of the taught phonemes they are ready to leave the Read Write Inc scheme. The majority of children will leave the Read Write Inc scheme by the early part of Year 2. Children not accessing the scheme are assessed and placed into spelling groups either focussing on phonics for spelling (Spelling Transition) or on spelling patterns. These groups use a similar rigid structure in their teaching with children carrying out word sorts, dictation and error checking exercises.

What reading books will come home?

In KS1, children on the Read Write Inc scheme will receive a 'Book Bag Book' weekly. This will be sent by their phonics teacher. This book will correspond to their Read Write Inc colour group. Your child will always receive the same numbered copy. They will not be provided with a new book unless they have returned the previous one and lost books will be charged at £2.50. We ask you to support us by ensuring that your child always returns their book on the appropriate day (this will be a Monday in Years 1 and 2). In addition, your child will receive a second book from their class teacher. This book will provide your child with a greater challenge in terms of decoding and may contain some untaught digraphs. Children not on the scheme will receive 2 of these books.

How can I help?

The Read Write Inc website contains useful information for parents. Please use the link provided to access this. The 'Book Bag Books' contain guidance for parents and should be used to support reading with your child. Whilst we don't recommend that you buy any books from the scheme yourself, you can purchase the Read Write Inc cards online and may like to review these with your child. Good attendance is vital in ensuring your child keeps up with and makes good progress within, the Read Write Inc programme. Children who are persistently absent or late into school may miss out on learning particular sounds. Finally, we ask that you read with and to your child as regularly as possible and encourage a love of reading.

For further information, please see the slides from our Read Write Inc information evening or speak to your child's teacher.

