

What is phonics?

From Reception, children learn how letters, or groups of letters sound. Once children can recognise sounds, they learn to blend them together to read words. They use their knowledge of these sounds and blending to decode words and read independently.



Why learn to read with phonics?

- Phonics supports children in reading independently.
- It helps them to become confident readers.
- It supports spelling in writing.



At New Marston, we follow the **Read Write Inc** program for phonics and sessions take place every day.

During RWI sessions children learn sounds and practise their decoding skills but also read stories that support them in developing their comprehension skills.

Phonics phrases

Some of the phrases that we use in class and you might like to try at home are:



Fred talk	A phrase to prompt children to identify and say the sounds in a word, then blend to say the whole word, for example, p-l-ay play
Fred in your head	To help improve fluency, this phrase prompts children to sound out the word in their head before saying the whole word.
Special friends	More than one letter that makes up a single sound. For example, a and y make up the ay sound as in play . This phrase helps children to look for sounds when they decode a word.
Speedy reading	Reading words quickly to develop fluency

The following website provides lots of useful information on RWI phonics, including how to say the sounds.

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

Exception to the rule

The English language is a tricky one to learn and there are always exceptions to the rule!

Some words cannot be decoded using phonics. These include

I my the you said your
are be of no what all
was we so to me call
her there want go old some
he does tall come watch who
were many any their where small
would should they could here once

During our phonics sessions we refer to these words as 'red words'. Children learn the whole word and therefore recognise these words by sight.



Reading with your child at home

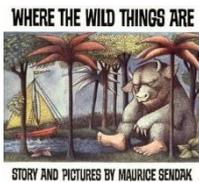
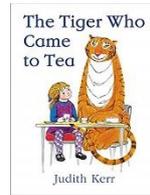
Your child will come home with a home reading book and with story words from the RWI books that we share in class.

Please read these with your child, using familiar phonics phrases. Don't overcorrect and encourage them to read as speedily as they are comfortable.

Finally, we would also encourage you to share as many books as you can with your child at home.

Make reading as enjoyable as possible

- Set time aside without any distractions – a book before bedtime is perfect!
- Get comfortable – snuggle up together and let your child hold the book if they want to.
- Remember to let your child choose what they would like to read – this could be magazines, comics, fiction, poetry or non-fiction.



- Any reading is good!
 - Talk about the pictures in the story
 - Talk about the story when you have finished – try to relate it to what they already know.
- Re-read the books that they love – don't worry about reading the same book again and again, this only helps to develop confidence and fluency.
- Most importantly, make it fun and enjoy your time together.



The following website also provides lots of useful tips for reading at home:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/reading-at-home>