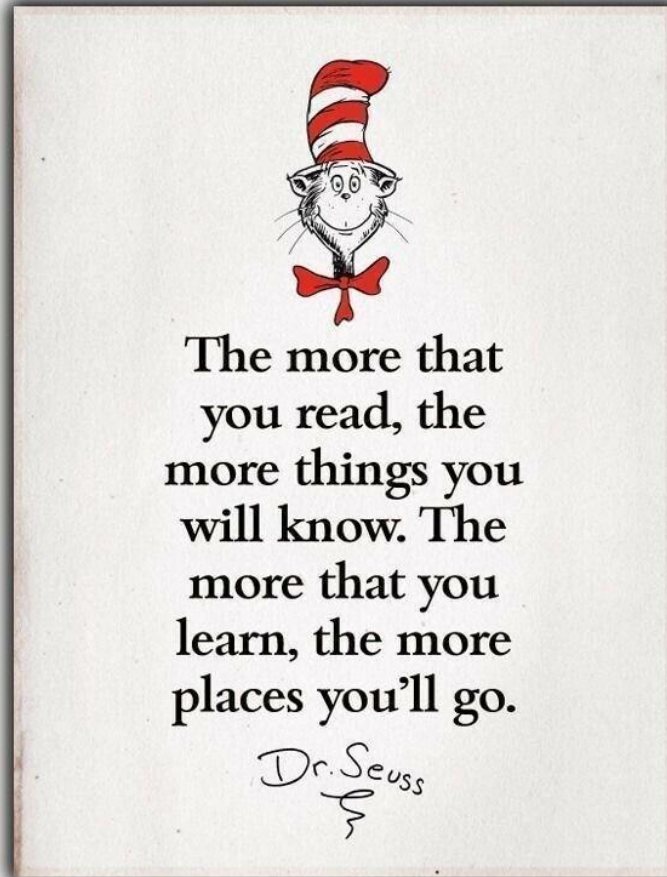




Reading at Home - A Booklet for Parents



One of the greatest gifts that you can give your child is to read with them from an early age. You don't have to be an expert. There's no magic in supporting children's reading, just patience, time, plus a little skill.

It's important to remember that learning to read is not a race! For some children, learning to read will seem to happen easily and quickly. For others, more time and support will be needed. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's reading, please come in and talk to your child's class teacher.

Early Years and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

Read Write Inc – Our Phonics Scheme

At our School, we use the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme. RWI is a method of learning based upon letter sounds and phonics, and we use it to aid children in their reading and writing.

The children are assessed half-termly and grouped according, ensuring the teaching of Phonics is done in small groups and matched to each child's reading ability. They will work with a RWI trained teacher or learning support assistant on a daily basis.

More information about the RWI Phonics scheme can be assessed in their collection of YouTube videos created specifically for parents:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFyDwUKSw7Y&list=PLDe7LjIF52zSCiOMSn3zQDSzgw9TrbQlc>

Reading

Children learn to read words by blending the letter-sounds that are in the Speed Sounds set. Help your child to say the pure sounds ('mmm' not 'muh', 'ssss' not 'suh' etc) as quickly as they can and then blend the sounds together to say the whole word. Further information on how to blend and the Speed Sounds can be found: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNyFikwNQIg>

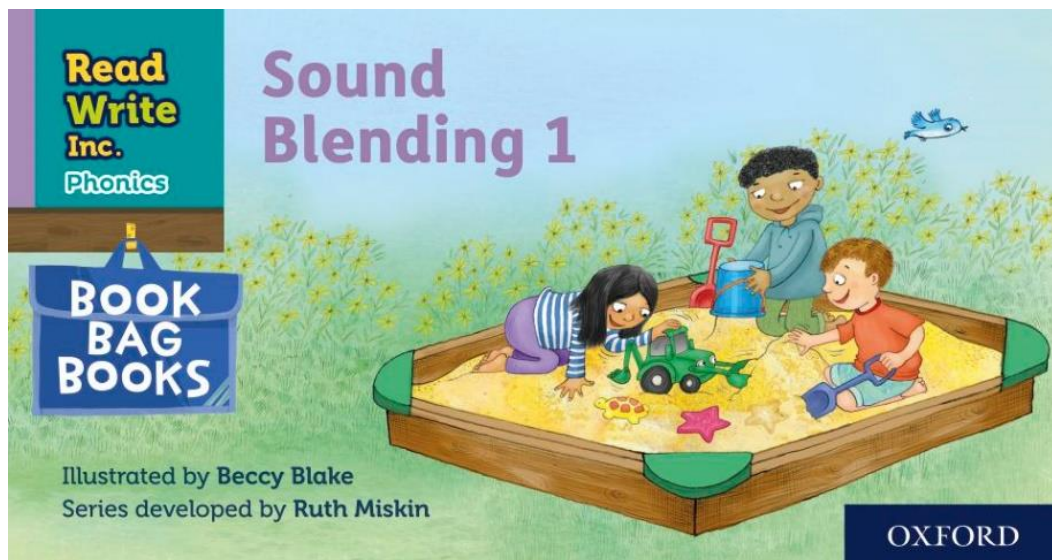
Reading in school

As well as taking part in a daily phonics / RWI or language and literacy session (for those who have completed the scheme), we aim to hear your child read a minimum of twice a week at School. This will happen in 1:1 sessions with an adult, as part of guided reading sessions, or in whole-class activities.

Reading books sent home

When children are first learning to read words, they will bring home 'sound blending books' and a picture book to enjoy with you. The sound blending books have one word per page. When reading these, encourage your child to say the individual sounds (taking care to say the pure sound for example: 'mmm' and not 'muh') and then blend the sounds together to read the word.

These books look like this:



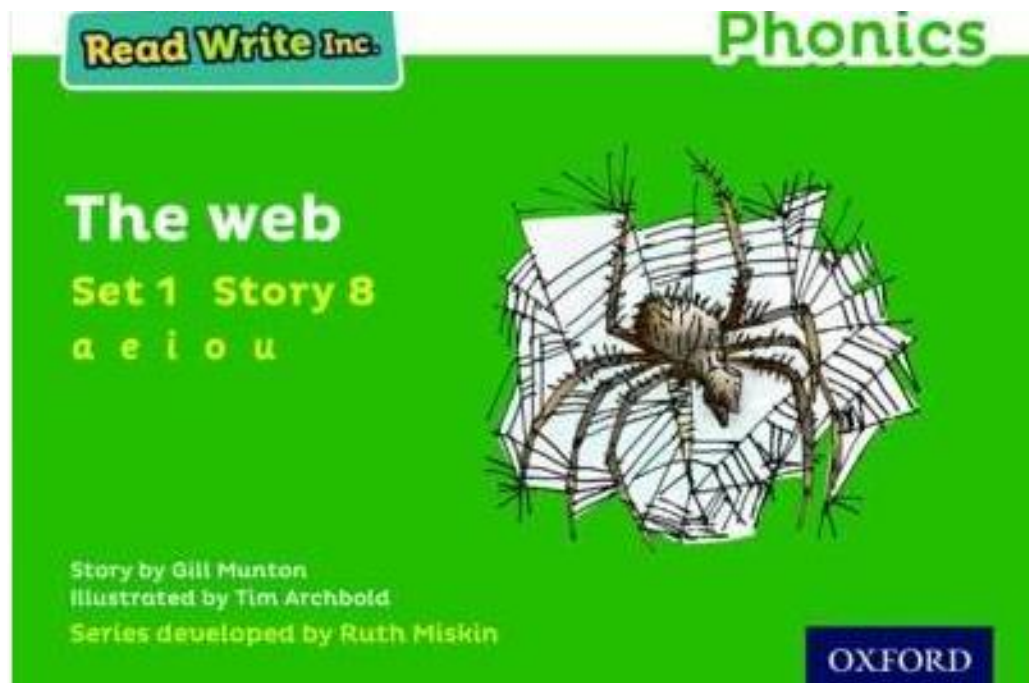
RWI story books

Once children have mastered the sound blending books, they will move on to reading phonics books every day in school. These books are carefully selected to match the phonics knowledge that your child has learnt so far. Over time, these books become progressively more challenging.

Children read these books three times (over the course of three days). The first time they read a new book, they are learning to read each word and to develop fluency; the second time, they are developing their expression and the third time they develop their reading comprehension.

After they have read the book in school, they bring a paper copy home to read to you. This is a chance for you to celebrate the progress they have made together.

These books look like this:

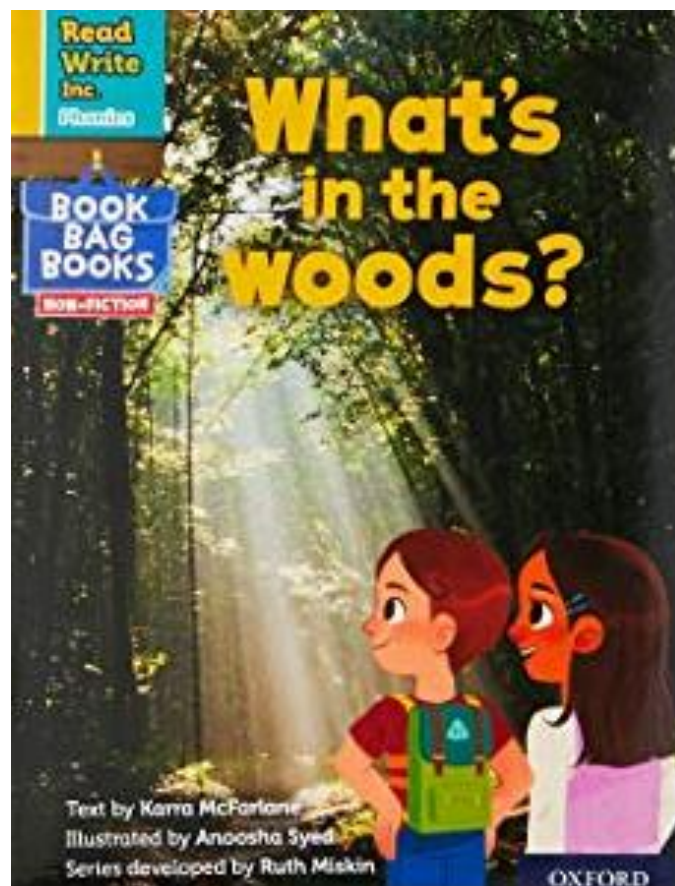


RWI Book Bag books

Children will also receive a second book to read at home (Book Bag Book). This might be fiction or non-fiction and would have been selected by your child's Phonics teacher / lead to match exactly what they have been learning at School that week.

This is a new book that they will not have seen before. Your child should be able to read all of the words in this book. If they get stuck, you can encourage them to sound the word out (in school we call this 'Fred Talk' and they will be very familiar with this). If they get stuck on a word that is not phonetically decodable, simply tell them what the word is.

These books look like this:



In summary, every week, the children taking part in our phonics programme will bring home:

- A copy of the RWI story book they have been reading at School
- A new RWI Book Bag book
- Another reading book (Oxford Reading Tree, Usborne, etc) to enjoy and develop their love for reading.

Their RWI books will be changed by their Phonics teacher / lead when appropriate (usually once a week). The other reading book will be selected and changed by the children, as often as they wish.

Parents are asked to date and comment in the children's Reading Record when they hear their child read.

It is very important that children bring their reading books to School every day, so that we can hear they read and change their RWI books when appropriate.

As previously mentioned, if you have any questions about our phonics schemes or reading at School or at home, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Class teacher.

Mrs Crowe