RWI Reading at home

At Nightingale Federation, we aim to make all of our children readers – and that begins with every child developing a secure knowledge of phonics. It is vital that children understand the link between letters and the sounds that they represent, so that they can decode unknown words and read with confidence. For a number of years, we have followed the Read Write Inc. programme, with each child regularly assessed to ensure that they are working at the right level and making rapid progress.

Starting from this week, as soon as pupils access reading at home or are taking part in RWI across school they will now be given a copy of the Read Write Inc. book that they are reading in their phonics group, along with a 'Book Bag' book which uses the same phonics pattern that they are currently learning. These will be changed every three to five days, matching the changing books that they are using in class. Please ensure your child has their book bag and books in school every day.

Once children have been assessed as being secured with all of their set 1, 2 and 3 sounds, they will start bringing home books which they have chosen from our additional reading.

RWInc Storybooks

These are copies of the storybook that your child will be reading in their Read Write Inc group at school. They will have already read this story and will be familiar with the sounds that it contains, so should be able to read the story confidently by the end of the week. There are lots of suggested activities and questions included in the books.

Green words and red words

- Most of the words are what we call Green words – these are words that can be split up into sounds that your child knows.

- Red words are common words that are irregular – they don't follow the patterns that your child knows, so they need to be learnt by sight. This includes words like the, you and was. They are coloured red in the storybooks to remind your child that they can't use their phonics to decode them.

Book Bag Books

Your child will also bring home a Book Bag Book. This book builds upon the ideas and many of the words in the storybook that they have just read. Your child will not learn to read this book at school, so will need more support in reading this text at home, but this book needs to be in school daily.

Top tips for reading together

- Don't read the book aloud before your child reads it to you.

- Ask your child to read the sounds and words before they read the story.
- When your child reads the story, ask them to sound out the green words that they can't read automatically. Don't ask your child to guess the word by using the pictures.
- Read back each sentence or page to keep the plot moving (your child's energy is going into reading the words, not the story).

Be patient and give lots of praise when your child succeeds.

Progression through Read Write Inc levels:

One of the biggest strengths of the Read Write Inc programme that we follow is the clear progression through sounds, and the way these are matched to the books that children read. We work through levels as follows:

At Red, Green and Purple level, we are learning:

- Set 1 Speed Sounds: these are sounds written with one letter: m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v y w z x and sounds written with two letters (which we call 'special friends'): sh th ch qu ng nk ck
- Words containing these sounds, by soundblending, eg. m–a–t mat, c–a–t cat, g–o–t got, f–i–sh fish, s–p–o–t spot

At Pink, Orange and Yellow level, we are learning:

- Set 2 Speed Sounds: ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy
- Words containing these sounds

At Blue and Grey level, we are learning:

- Set 3 Speed Sounds: ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure
- Words containing these sounds

Children are assessed every six weeks to ensure that they are working at the right level.

We are delighted to finally have completed our purchase of the systematic home accompaniment to our school reading scheme. With this in mind- these books are an expensive resource for our school and follow a scheme of work. We only have 10 of each book in school and there may be up to 30 at a time requiring access to these. Therefore, please do ensure they are in school daily and send back so that we can follow the systematic sharing. Any books not returned (or returned damaged) will be chargeable at the cost plus shipping so as to ensure we have our entire complement in school at all times.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to continuing to enhance and improve your child's love of reading and access to books.