

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

How will my child be taught to read?

At Valley Invicta Primary School at Holborough Lakes, we use the *Read, Write, Inc* (RWI) programme to get children off to a flying start with Reading. RWI is a phonic based approach to teaching reading. It involves children learning to read sounds and how to blend them together to read words.

The children learn 44 sounds (speed sounds). These are the letter sounds and not the letter names. The speed sounds are divided into small groups. Once your child has learnt all of the sounds in one group, they can move on to sounds blending the letters in that group to read what we call 'green words'.

The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'red words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'.

The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'red words' they know. They start thinking that they *can* read and this does wonders for their confidence.

How will I know how well my child is doing?

We use various ways to find out how the children are getting on in reading. We use the information to decide what RWI group they should be in. Your child will work with children who are at the same reading level as him or her. Children will move to a different group if they are making faster progress than the others. Your child will have one-to-one support if we think he or she needs some extra help to keep up.

In the summer term, the government asks us to do a phonics check of all the Year 1 children. That gives us extra information about their progress. We will talk to you about how well your child has done, and especially if we have any worries at all.

How long will it take to learn to read well?

By the end of Year 2, your child should be able to read aloud books that are at the right level for his or her age. In Year 3 we concentrate more on helping children to understand what they are reading, although this work begins very early on. This happens when the teacher reads to the children and also when the children read their own story book.

How do I know the teaching will be good?

All the staff have been trained to teach reading in the way we do it in this school. We believe that it is very important that all the teachers and teaching assistants work in the same way. Senior teachers watch other teachers teaching to make sure that the children are learning in the way we want them to learn.

What can I do to help?

Help your child to sound out the letters in words and then to 'push' the sounds together to make a whole word. Try not to refer to the letters by their names. Help your child to focus on the sounds. You can hear how to say the sounds correctly at this link:

<http://www.ruthmiskintraining.com/teacher-support/61/index.html>

We know parents and carers are very busy people. But if you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps him or her to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family. You can find out about good stories to read to your child here:

<https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Your child will bring home a *Read Write Inc.* Storybook they have just finished reading in their group. They will be able to read this book confidently because they have already read it two or three times. Please do not say "This book is too easy!" Praise your child for how well they read it – celebrate what a great reader they are. They'll sometimes bring home previous stories they have read too. Re-reading stories develops their fluency on every reading. There's more good advice on how to listen to your child read on

www.ruthmiskin.com/parents

Does it matter if my child misses a lesson or two?

It matters a lot if your child misses school. The way we teach children to read is very well organised, so even one missed lesson means that your child has not learnt something that they need to know to be a good reader.

What if he or she finds it difficult to learn to read?

We want children to learn to read, however long it takes us to teach them. We will find out very quickly if your child is finding reading difficult. First, we move children to a different group, so that we can make sure that they have learnt what they need to know. If they still struggle, we give them extra time with an adult, on their own. These adults are specially trained to support these children. Your child will still be in the same group with the other children and won't miss out on any of the class lessons.

If we have any serious worries about your child's reading, we will talk to you about this.

Some children take a bit longer to learn to put sounds together to read a word, e.g. c-a-t to make the word 'cat'.