

Calder Primary School

The Calder Learning Trust

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Reading Books and Phonics

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Calder Primary School we use the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme to get children off to a flying start with their literacy.

Reading and discussing what has been read opens the door to learning. A child who reads and talks about their books a lot will become a good reader. A good reader will be able to read more challenging material and independently access learning and information from across the curriculum and in a range of subjects. A child who reads challenging material is a child who will learn. The more a child learns, the more he or she will want to find out!

In 2020 we made a significant investment in reading by purchasing the complete scheme of RWI book bag reading books. These run from sound blending books at the beginning of pupils' phonics journey up to Year 2 - and beyond as needed to support pupils to be confident readers. The scheme replaces our previous reading books for EYFS and KS1 and ensures that the books your child reads at home directly relate to the sounds they are learning in class. Once pupils are confident with these books in Year 2 they move to our Oxford Reading Treetops Scheme, which runs from Year 2 to Year 6 and into Year 7 for some students.

The children in EYFS and KS1 are assessed regularly in phonics as part of their learning and grouped according to their ability. They will work with a RWI trained teacher or teaching assistant for daily regular and consistent phonics teaching. In addition to RWI sessions, children will also be developing their reading and writing skills across the curriculum.

We believe that daily reading is the single most important thing you can do with your child at home to support them with their learning from Reception to Year 6.

Reading

When using RWI to **read** the children will:

- Learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter/letter groups using simple prompts.
- Learn to read words using sound blending (Fred talk).



- Read lively stories featuring words they have learnt to sound out.
- Show that they comprehend the stories by answering 'Find It' and 'Prove It'.

Writing

When using RWI to **write** the children will:

- Learn to write the letter/letter groups which represent the 44 sounds.
- Learn to write words by saying the sounds and graphemes (Fred fingers).
- Learn to write simple then more complex sentences.
- Compose stories based on story strips.
- Compose a range of texts using discussion prompts.

Talking

When using RWI the children will also work together:

- To answer questions.
- To practise every activity.
- To take turns talking and listening to each other.
- To give positive praise to each other.

Blending

You can help your child learn to read words by sounding-blending (Fred talk) eg. c-a-t = cat, sh-o-p = shop. Children learn to read words by blending the letter-sounds that are in the Speed Sounds set.

You can help your child to say the pure sounds ('mmmm' not 'muh', 'ssss' not 'suh' etc.) as quickly as they can, and then blend the sounds together to say the whole word. There are lots of online tutorials and videos that will help you use the correct pronunciation of all the sounds with your child, such as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q> Correct pronunciation of the sounds is incredibly important so please support them to blend correctly when reading as it will allow them to decode new and unfamiliar words accurately.

Reading Books Sent Home at EYFS and KS1

Children in Reception who are learning the first 44 letter sounds and are not blending fluently yet will bring home the sounds they are learning each week, which may also include short activities to do.

Once children begin blending they will bring home sound blending reading books. When they can blend fluently and know the first 44 letter sounds, they will bring a red Ditty book and a RWI book bag book at the same level. After Ditty books, children bring home a RWI book and a book bag book at their RWI level.

All children will also bring home a library book for you to read with them for pleasure.

Read Write Inc Books: (This is your child's main reading book) Please encourage your child to read though the speed sounds page first, then the green and red words page and then check your child understands the meaning of words on the vocabulary check page, before they start reading the book. Your child will have read this book at least three times before they bring it home. They should be able to read this book with fluency and expression by the time they bring it home and they should have a good comprehension of what the book is about. At the back of the book are find it/prove it questions for you to do with your child.

RWI Book Bag books: (These books are to support your child's main reading book) These books are to extend your child's reading. Your child should be able to read most of this book however they might need a little support, especially with the first read.

Library Books: (once a week) These are for you and your child to enjoy together. If your child is able to read a few familiar words, great, but if not, please enjoy reading them to your child. Your child can also include in their reading diaries, books they have read from home or books they have taken out of the local library and read.

When are books sent home?

RWI books, RWI book bag books and Treetops books will be sent home each Thursday and should be returned on Tuesdays. These should be read each night to develop confidence, fluency, expression and understanding.

Library books will also be sent home on Thursday to be returned the following Tuesday. You can always let us know if you haven't finished and want to keep them longer! These are for reading for pleasure and sharing together, so we suggest keeping them in an accessible place to browse and enjoy.

What else can I do to help my child learn to read?

- Each year we hold a phonics information evening for new parents. This will explain more about how we teach phonics and how you can support your child as well as giving you the opportunity to ask any questions you might have. This will be held on **Tuesday 11th October at 3.15pm**. It is aimed at Reception parents, any new parents who have not previously attended and any Year 1 or 2 parents who would also like to attend and might have missed out due to COVID.

- We will send home a set of RWI Set 1 cards to all Reception parents and any new Key Stage 1 parents who would like one. Set 2 and 3 cards are available to purchase on Amazon as well as other resources for parents to support learning at home.
- Please read with your child **every day for at least 10 minutes** in EYFS/KS1. Please support your child with their fluency, expression and intonation. The reason we send books home weekly is to give the opportunity for pupils to develop these skills and to gain confidence in their reading and understanding.
- Reading a variety of books (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, rhymes etc.) is really beneficial. Discuss the different features of the books together; talk about the books and other reading materials that you have shared; explain the meaning of new words; see if your child could change a part of the story to make a new version. You could even use puppets or soft toys to retell the story! Most importantly though, show that fun can be gained by listening to stories and reading a range of texts, eg. cereal packets, shopping lists, road signs, web pages, magazines, comics, newspapers etc.

Useful Websites

- [Read Write Inc](#) - for more information and ideas for supporting your child, visit the RWI website
- [Oxford Owl](#) - visit the Oxford Owl website which has over 100 free ebooks for to enjoy with your child.
- [YouTube: Phonemes Pronunciation Guide](#) - a video clip, demonstrating how we produce our pure sounds to help during our Read Write Inc lessons
- [Family Learning: Phonics Games](#) - Phonics games will help your child to practise sounding out words, which will help them to read
- [ICT Games: Word Reader](#) - Listen to the word and choose which flower has that word underneath it

If you have any questions at any time, please ask your child's class teacher for more information, or Mrs Kennedy who is our Literacy coordinator.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Lambert