

The Calder Learning Trust

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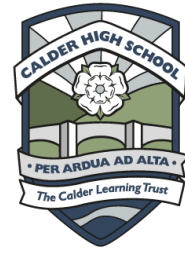
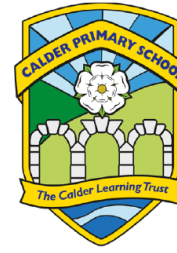
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Head of The Calder Learning Trust - Mr A Guise

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28th September 2023

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 opens the door to learning. A child who reads a lot will become a good reader. A good reader will be able to read more challenging material. 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! Ruth Miskin, Read, Write Inc

In Reception and Class 1 we send home RWI reading books. These run from sound blending books at the beginning of pupils' phonics journey up to Year 2 where they are building their fluency and speed. The scheme ensures that the books your child reads at home directly relate to the sounds they are learning or have learnt in class.

Once pupils are confident and can read the RWI books with fluency, speed and expression, usually towards the end of Year 2 and into Year 3, they move to our Oxford Reading Treetops Scheme, which typically runs from Year 3 to Year 6.

The children in Reception and Class 1 are assessed regularly in phonics as part of their learning and grouped according to their ability. They 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' questions.

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 sound 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, as these are different to how many parents learnt them when they were at school! Please [click here](#) for parent video guides and information. Correct pronunciation of the sounds is incredibly important so please support your child to sound out and blend correctly when learning to read 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 such as letter formation or sound spotting.

Once children begin blending, they will bring home sound blending reading books. When they can blend fluently as well as knowing 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 bag book at their RWI level each week. All children will also bring home a library book each week for you to read with them for pleasure.

Read Write Inc Book Bag Books (once a week) These books extend your child's reading from what they have been working on in school. They won't contain any sounds your child has not yet learnt and your child should be able to read most of the book independently however they might need a little support, especially with the first read. They keep this book for a week and with daily reading should be able to read it with confidence, speed, fluency and expression. At the front of the book are key words and guidance for parents and at the back are some questions for you to ask your child.

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 any books that they have read from home or books they have taken out of the local library for example.

When are books sent home?

RWI book bag books and Library books will be changed each **Thursday**. These should be read each night to develop confidence, fluency, expression and understanding. Please keep the RWI books in their school book bags every day as we also listen to the children in school as well.

You can always let us know if you haven't finished a library book and want to keep it longer! These are for reading for pleasure and sharing together, so we suggest keeping them in an accessible place to browse and enjoy.

Please bring Library books and RWI books back on **Thursdays**.

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 17th October at 3.20pm. It is aimed at Reception parents, any new parents or any Year 1/2 parents who have not previously attended.

- 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 for a small amount, as well as other RWI resources designed for parents to support with learning at home.
- The RWI cards can be used to practise speedy knowledge of sounds as well as for practising letter formation and for making words to sound out and blend.
- Please read with your child **every day for at least 10 minutes**. 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 Parent Guide.
- [Oxford Owl](#) - visit the Oxford Owl website which has over 100 free ebooks for to enjoy with your child (it is free to register to access them).
- [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.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Lambert

Everybody, Everyday

