

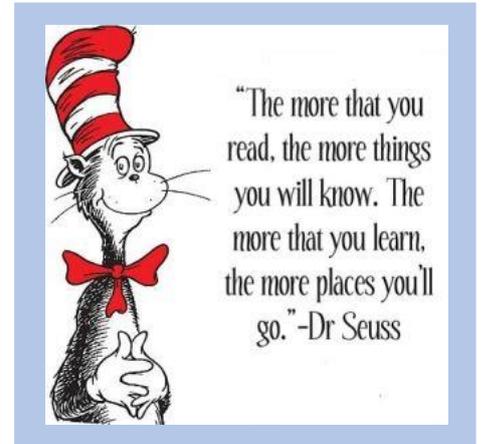
# How we teach children to read

The ability to read and write well is a vital skill for all children, paving the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience. Phonics helps children to develop good reading and spelling skills.

***“Synthetic phonics offers the vast majority of young children the best and most direct route to becoming skilled readers and writers”***

Sir Jim Rose, Rose Review of Reading 2006

At Carlisle, we use ‘Read Write Inc’ to teach phonics. In the Foundation Stage and in Key Stage 1 phonics is taught every day Monday - Thursday. Regular assessment in RWI ensures that the children’s progress is closely monitored and they move onto the next stage of books quickly. Strategies are also put in place for children that may need some additional support.



Read Write Inc is divided into 12 graduated stages, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. Children have time to practise and rapidly expand their ability to read and spell words. They are also taught to read and spell ‘tricky words’ (red words), which are words with unusual spellings.

Through the progressive stages, children are taught:

- \*The full range of common letter/ sound correspondences.
- \*To hear separate sounds within words.
- \*To blend sounds together.
- \* To read regular words without sound blending (Fred in your head).

Once the phonic knowledge is secure and the children are reading at a fluent pace they move onto our Literacy and Language programme.

Phonics is important for children to become effective readers, but it is not the only strategy used. The children are taught phonics as part of a language rich curriculum, so that they develop their wider reading skills at the same time.

As children start to take reading books home, they follow a progressive colour band scheme to develop their growing reading skills. As children progress through school and their phonetic awareness develops, reading books from the Oxford Reading Tree scheme are introduced. This scheme is then followed, alongside books from schemes such as Collins Big Cat, Usborne Young Readers and Project X.

Children will bring home a combination of fiction and non-fiction books, and we encourage parents to read with their children as often as possible. Each child has a reading diary and this is a record

of what they are reading, and who they read to. Parents are expected to fill in this diary when they hear their child read, and comment on their progress.

Furthermore, as children move on throughout Year 2 they begin to take part in daily guided reading sessions, which involve reading to their class teacher in a small ability set group. The sessions include texts by a variety of authors and genres to continue to widen their experiences of literature. Guided reading tasks develop independent learning of key reading skills (e.g. comprehension and prediction), while the rest of the class work on specific activities to embed phonics and reading.

At Carlisle, we want all children to love reading and the children have many opportunities to share books and listen to stories throughout the day. Each class has a book area which has been designed to be as exciting and welcoming as possible. We also have lots of focused reading events including creative book weeks, inviting storytellers into school, teacher story swaps and 'bedtime reading' events to enrich the children's love of reading and literature.

