



*Sandal Castle*  
*Phonics and*  
*Early reading*

# *Introduction*

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# Learning to read.

Learning to read is the most important thing your children will learn to do at school.

Reading not only underpins all other areas of the curriculum, it is also pivotal in developing children's confidence, motivation and self-esteem.

# Reading at Sandal Castle

At Sandal Castle, we are determined that every pupil will learn to read, regardless of their background, needs or abilities.

- We believe that children should be immersed in an environment rich in stories, poetry, rhymes and non-fiction texts from their earliest years to develop a life-long love of reading.
- We know that reading is at the heart of all learning. Through reading, our children are able to gain new knowledge and extend their vocabulary, enabling them to become confident and articulate communicators.

- We have the highest expectations of our pupils in terms of their progression in phonics and place high emphasis on the rigorous teaching of systematic synthetic phonics from the start of Reception.
- Through well-matched reading books, children are supported to develop their reading skills both at home and at school.
- Ongoing regular assessment allows a targeted support to be implemented speedily and effectively.
- At Sandal Castle, we are determined to develop a team of early reading experts. The provision of regular CPD helps us to prioritise reading, and empowers our team to deliver outstanding reading lessons and support.

## How reading is taught at Sandal Castle.

We start by teaching phonics to the children in our Foundation. This means children learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and explore how those sounds can be written down. These are essential skills for reading, but also help children learn how to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters using picture prompts.

We use the **Read Write Inc.** Phonics programme to teach our children how to read. Effective Phonics teaching and learning is essential for high attainment in reading and writing.

# English alphabetic code

- 44 sounds
- 26 letters
- Over 150+ graphemes (letter combinations)
- One of the most complex alphabetic codes in the world.

*Read Write Inc.* is a literacy programme that helps children learn synthetic phonics using a systematic approach. Phonics sessions are taught daily in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2, as the continuity and pace of the programme, is essential to increasing the speed of children's reading development.

You can find out more about RWI via the following link:

[What is Read Write Inc. Phonics?](#)



# Sounds

Children need to know sounds not letter names to read words.

We use pure sounds ('m' not 'muh', 's' not 'suh', etc) so that the children are able to blend the sounds into words more easily.



Stretchy and bouncy sound pronunciation

# The order of teaching



## Set 1 Speed Sounds:

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

sh, th, ch, qu, ng, nk

## Set 2 Speed Sounds:

ay, ee, igh, ow, oo, oo, ar, or, air, ir, ou, oy

## 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



## Additional Speed Sounds:

ue, ie, au, e-e, e, kn, ck, wh, ph

# Set 1 and 2 Speed Sounds

# Set 3 Speed Sounds



## Consonant sounds – stretchy

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
										nk

## Consonant sounds – bouncy

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
	k											

## Vowel sounds – bouncy

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
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## Vowel sounds – stretchy

## Vowel sounds – stretchy

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy
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## Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci		
					c		se			
					ce					

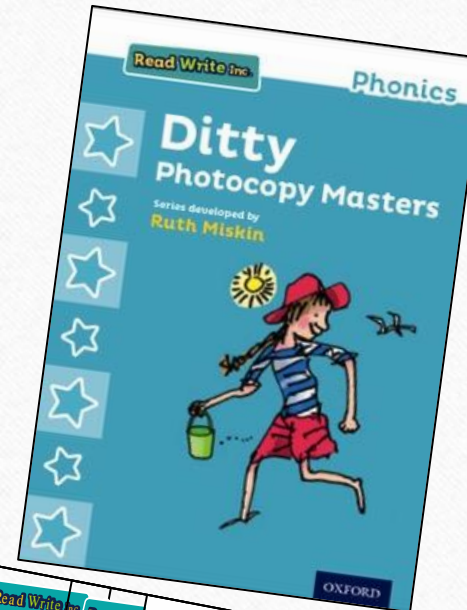
b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		g	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck				ge							
	ch				dge							

## Vowel sounds

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				a-e	e-e	i-e	o-e
					ai	y	ie	oa
						ea	i	o
						e	y	

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
u-e			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			aw							
			au							

# Phonics daily lessons



# Red Words

I

said

This is Red Hat Rob.



“I will grab that cash box,” he said.

# Fred Talk



At school we use a toy called Fred who is an expert at sounding out words to help the children blend.

We call this 'Fred Talk' e.g c-a-t, l-o-g, ch-i-p,  
sh-o-p, b-l-a-ck.

You can find out more about blending sounds with Fred via the [blending sounds link](#) above.

[Blending sounds](#)

## Progress groups

- Group children by phonic stages.
- Teach to the group's challenge level.
- Re-assess all children every half term.

One-to-one tutoring  
'keep up, not catch up!'



## *Sandal Castle's teaching of Read Write Inc:*

- *Is targeted at the challenge point for each child, ensuring every child is supported to make clear progress;*
- *Stimulates children through provision of a learning environment which evokes achievement and progression;*
- *Uses a systematic approach to teaching phonics, reading and writing skills together to entwine and support each of these aspects;*
- *Encourages consistency of teaching and learning across the school in this area;*
- *Our goal is to accelerate children's early reading progress, leading to improved attainment, both in relation to the Statutory Phonics Screening Check and children's overall reading development throughout the school.*

# The Statutory Phonics Screening Check

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- A word-reading test children take at the end of Year 1.
- Children are asked to read 40 words.

The check consists of a mixture of real words and nonsense words which children are asked to decode using their phonic knowledge.

# How you can help your child?

Although your child will be taught to read at school, the support you provide at home is invaluable to their reading journey.



Children in Year Two and Key Stage One will have access to the following books at home:

Children have just read in class to develop their fluency reading a book they are familiar with.

- a Book Bag Book closely matched to the story they have read in class.

The more often children read, the faster progress they will make. Please avoid saying, "This book is too easy for you!" but instead say "I love how well you can read this book!"

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 become a good reader.

*Any questions?*