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Dear Parents

In Year 1, we introduce the Read Write Inc scheme to teach phonics with the aim of enabling every child to become a confident and fluent reader and writer.

The children read and write each day, grouped according to their current reading ability. A few children who need extra support to maintain progress work with a teaching assistant on a 1:1 basis.

The programme begins with Speed Sounds 1 & 2 which covers initial letter sounds and “Special Friends” (two or three letters/ one sound). It immediately encourages children to blend these letters and sounds to make words and to write simple words. They progress onto Speed Sounds 3 which covers more digraphs and trigraphs and more complex spelling patterns.

The children practise spelling words immediately so that they can read them and learn to spell the words. To assist with writing, they learn rhymes for letter formation.

It is taught through the same pattern each day using the same language. This language is now familiar to your child, but you may be unfamiliar with the terminology which is different from Letters and Sounds as taught in Reception.

For more information, you can visit the following website:

<https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>

The “tricky words” are now referred to as “red” words which means that they should be learnt by sight rather than sounding out. The red words appropriate to your child will be sent home in a little egg pot and will be added to as appropriate. You should practise reading these words at speed with your child each week.

In addition, we will send home a note in their reading book each week, indicating which sounds have been covered this week and a few examples of words containing these sounds. Children need to practise reading and writing these words using the techniques learnt in school. They should also look for other examples of these sounds in words in reading books. This should be done with an adult as some words will contain the same letters but not the same sound (e.g. ow in blow but not in cow)

Because of the dual nature of reading/ writing we do not set any additional homework for Year 1 at this time. They need to read 5 times a week to an adult; practise reading their sound words; practise their red words and practise their letter formation by spelling their sound words.

If you wish to do any additional maths work with your child at this stage, concentrate on number formation (especially teen numbers) and the correct ordering and spelling of days of the week/ months of the year.

More information on all of this will be provided at parents evening after half-term.

Kind regards

Miss Startup, Miss Reeves, Miss Gill, Mrs Lucas.

