



Phonics

Subject Leader Report 2024-2025



Subject Leader: Clara Clark

Spring Term

Overview: The delivery of the Read Write Inc. (RWI) Phonics program across EYFS and Key Stage 1 continues to be a key priority in our school's commitment to ensuring all children develop strong early literacy skills. This academic year, we have seen significant progress in the phonics attainment of all pupils, with consistent improvements noted across the board. Our regular assessments indicate that pupils are progressing well within the RWI framework, with many moving swiftly through the stages of the program and demonstrating an impressive grasp of phonics knowledge and skills.

RWI Development Day Highlights: In line with our continuous drive to maintain high standards, we held a comprehensive RWI Development Day for staff this term. This provided an excellent opportunity to ensure all teaching staff are up-to-date with the latest RWI strategies and best practices.

During the development day, staff participated in targeted workshops covering the following key areas:

- **Enhanced Delivery of Phonics Sessions:** Teachers explored how to better model sounds and blending, with a focus on engaging all learners.
- **Assessment and Tracking:** We focused on refining our assessment processes to ensure that we are accurately tracking each child's phonics journey and intervening at the earliest signs of difficulty.
- **Intervention Strategies:** Teachers collaborated to review and enhance our approach to phonics interventions, ensuring that all children, particularly those who need additional support, receive tailored and effective instruction.

Feedback from staff was overwhelmingly positive, with many reporting a renewed confidence in their phonics teaching methods. Teachers expressed a greater understanding of how to stretch pupils who are working above age-related expectations, as well as more effective ways to support those who require additional help.

Challenge Partners Visit Highlights: We were also fortunate to have a visit from **Challenge Partners**, a national network of schools working together to improve education standards. The visit, which focused specifically on phonics provision, was an incredibly positive experience for our school. The visiting team, which included experienced professionals from a range of schools, conducted classroom observations, held discussions with staff, and reviewed our data and resources.

The visit highlighted several key strengths in our RWI phonics provision:

- **Consistency in Teaching:** The visiting team praised the consistency and quality of phonics instruction across both EYFS and Key Stage 1. They noted that all staff, regardless of year group, followed the RWI structure with fidelity, which ensured a clear and progressive learning experience for all pupils.
- **Impact on Outcomes:** The Challenge Partners team commended the school for its impressive phonics results. Pupils across both phases demonstrated secure phonics knowledge and were able to apply their skills with confidence when reading and writing.
- **Positive Learning Environment:** Observations in classrooms showed that children were highly engaged in their phonics sessions. The use of multisensory teaching methods, such as actions, visuals, and interactive activities, contributed to a positive and stimulating learning environment.

Progress and Outcomes: The impact of the RWI phonics program on pupil progress is evident in a range of data points. Across EYFS and Key Stage 1, all children are making very good progress in their phonics development. As we continue to assess children regularly using RWI's rigorous tracking system, it's clear that the vast majority of pupils are meeting or exceeding age-related expectations.



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Children who previously faced challenges with phonics have shown remarkable improvement, with our targeted intervention strategies proving effective in helping them catch up. The use of 'keep-up' sessions and small group interventions has ensured that all children, including those with SEND and EAL, are progressing well.

Next Steps: As we move forward, we will continue to build on the strengths identified during the RWI development day and the Challenge Partners visit. Key next steps include:

- **Further Targeted CPD:** We plan to deliver additional CPD sessions for staff, focusing on stretching the most able pupils and ensuring that interventions are consistently delivered to a high standard.
- **Parental Engagement:** We will continue to develop our strategies for engaging parents in supporting their children's phonics learning at home, ensuring that they are aware of the importance of phonics and how they can assist their children's progress.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** Regular monitoring of phonics progress will remain a priority, with an emphasis on ensuring that all children are on track to meet the end-of-year expectations for their phase.

In conclusion, the RWI phonics program has proven to be highly effective in ensuring that all children, regardless of their starting point, are making excellent progress in their phonics development. The success of the RWI Development Day and the positive feedback from the Challenge Partners visit underscore the strength of our phonics provision. We are confident that, by maintaining our high standards and continuing our focused approach, all children will continue to thrive in their reading journey.

