

Phonics

This page is to help you understand how we teach phonics at Downside Primary School and the part that you can play in helping your child become a confident and fluent reader. Our aim is for all our children to become independent, lifelong readers, able to read a wide range of texts for a variety of purposes with understanding and for pleasure. We welcome and encourage support from home in the teaching of phonics and reading. We work in joint partnership between home and school to help children develop this vital skill.

In school, we follow the Read Write Inc. programme for phonics teaching. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 take part in high-quality phonics sessions every day. These are fun sessions involving lots of speaking, listening and games, where the emphasis is on children's active participation. They learn to use their phonic knowledge for reading and writing activities and in their independent learning during the day. To prepare children in Year 1 for the Phonic Screening test, children are exposed to nonsense words which require them to recall and apply their knowledge and understanding of phonemes and how to blend and segment phonemes for reading. This has increased their confidence and their ability to read real and nonsense words.

Ask your teacher for advice on how your child is doing in phonics, and whether there are certain areas you should focus on at home. Every child learns differently. If your child struggles with phonics, your child's teacher will have already contacted you to discuss the extra support they are receiving and ways you can support them at home. Throughout the year, we hold phonics and reading workshops for parents. Please speak to the class teacher if you would like to find out more about this. The following links may also be useful.

<https://readingeggs.co.uk/>

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

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading/phonics-made-easy/>