



### **What phonics scheme do we use?**

At Abington Vale, we teach children to read through the Read Write Inc. (RWI) Phonics programme. The programme teaches phonics systematically and children are taught the sounds in a particular order so that they can read and spell words. It gives children a hook to learn the sounds by using pictures in the same shape as the letters. The children then learn to read and write sounds easily. They are then given a book to read with words containing the sounds they have already been taught. Children do not read books that contain sounds that they do not know. This means they build confidence quickly and develop a love of reading.

All the children in Year 1 and Year 2 are taught in mixed groups with other children that are learning the same sounds as them. They practise reading the Read Write Inc. story books until they can read them fluently.

### **What is fluency? (From Closing the Reading Gap by Alex Quigley, 2020)**

Fluent readers no longer need to slow.... ly .... de .... code in.... div .... id ... u ... al sounds in words because they recognise more words with automaticity. As they free up mental bandwidth by making such word reading automatic, they have more space to consider the meaning of the language and go on to put the appropriate expression in their voice, etc. Their reading begins to sound 'natural', akin to how they may speak, with their pacing sounding like typical talk.

Reading fluency will sound distinctive when we listen to our pupils read aloud. Their reading will have elements of expressiveness, their volume and phrasing will skilfully match what is being read and they will read with a smoothness and an appropriate pace (Rasinski, 2006).

### **What books will my child bring home?**

Your child will bring home two Read Write Inc reading books. One is the black and white paper copy of the book they have read at school. They will have read this book three times in school, so should be confident and familiar with the story and all the words in the book. This book will come home on a Wednesday. Reading this book with your child will be a celebration of all they have learnt in school and will therefore build self-esteem and enjoyment of reading as well as allowing them to show off their reading skills to you.

The second book is a Book Bag Book. This book will come home on their reading day. This will be unfamiliar to your child and will allow them to use their reading skills to decode the words. Each book will be matched to the sounds they have been taught so far. There are also comprehension activities for you to do with your child at the back of each book to help develop their understanding of what they have read. There is an information page at the beginning of each book to support you with the reading process. It is important for your child to read their books more than once to develop fluency. Please do not be concerned that your child's book may not seem challenging enough. We have carried out thorough assessments to ensure that your child received the appropriate level book. The aim of reading at home is to encourage your child to practise being confident in reading all words speedily, as well as using a 'storyteller voice'.

These brand-new books will be sent home in a plastic wallet that is just for your child. Please keep them in this wallet and send them to school daily. As the black and white copies of the book they have read in school are paper copies, we need to ensure they are looked after and not ripped when at home. Any book that is damaged or ripped will result in you being charged for the purchase of a new book. (Black and white paper copies £2.50 each and Book Bag Books £5 each.)

## What happens after RWI?

Once children have completed the Read Write Inc programme, they start to select books from the Oxford Reading Tree programme. At this point the children should be able to access most of the words within these books and should have the decoding skills to tackle all unknown words. Children will begin reading these books from stage 8 up to stage 12. These books contain decodable words and will give your child the opportunity to practice their phonics knowledge they have gained through RWI.

## Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader is a computer program used independently by children who have reached stage 12 on Oxford Reading Tree. It helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer – passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.

## How are the books chosen?

Once children have reach stage 12 on Oxford Reading Tree, they are assessed to see which level on AR they should read. After taking their Star Reader Assessment, they are given a ZPD (zone of proximal development) which is their range of book level targeted at their next stage in reading and comprehension. Usually, they start at the lowest level in the range and read through the levels at their own pace. Using this range, they choose levelled books in school and when they have read the book, they then complete the online quiz. As children pass quizzes, they receive certification to show their success. There is also a competitive element in school as classes compete against each other for the most quizzes passed each month! AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and ongoing reading practice.

Children can build their reading skills and stamina and are not put off by books that are too basic or too demanding for them. They also have fun completing quizzes and earning points along the way towards individual or class targets. Struggling readers are well supported, and high achievers are encouraged to read books that really engage and challenge them. Teachers can track children's progress book by book, and tailor recommendations to a child's individual needs. Above all, children are highly motivated and inspired by successful reading.

The grid below shows the books bag book and black and white book that your child will bring home weekly.

Phonics Group Name	Book Bag Book	Black and White Book
Read Write Inc programme begins A systematic approach to teaching phonics to the children with home materials matched to their phonic knowledge and pitched at a level that is accessible.		
SOUNDS	My Set 1 Sounds Book	
Ditty	Sound Blending book	
RED	Red Set	Red Set
GREEN	Green Set	Green Set
PURPLE	Purple Set	Purple Set
PINK	Pink Set	Pink Set
ORANGE	Orange Set	Orange Set
YELLOW	Yellow Set	Yellow Set
BLUE	Blue Set	Blue Set
GREY	Grey Set	Grey Set

Read Write Inc programme ends  
Children have the phonics knowledge to decode unknown decodable words

<b>Post RWI reading teaching.</b> Children will transfer over to Oxford Reading Tree programme for their home reading book.	Stage 8 ORT	
	Stage 9 ORT	
	Stage 10 ORT	
	Stage 11 ORT	
	Stage 12 ORT	

Children move onto the Accelerated Reader programme