WORK TOGETHER, AIM HIGH, SHINE BRIGHT

BRIDEKIRK DOVENBY SCHOOL
Dovenby
Cockermouth
Cumbria
CA13 0PG
Telephone: 01900 829889
Headteacher: Mrs J. E. Fish

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for taking time to read this important information. We hope that you will find it useful in explaining a little bit of background and how we are implementing the teaching of reading through Read Write Inc into our school.

Following on from the publication of 'The Reading Framework: teaching the foundations of literacy' in July 2021, school were required to begin using a structured phonics scheme which was validated by the DfE.

After much research and speaking to colleagues around the county, we decided upon Read Write Inc which is used by hundreds of schools across the country. Mrs Taylor and I made a visit to Orgill English Hub where we witnessed Read Write Inc lessons being taught. We felt that this scheme would work well in our school and looked forward to see the progress that our children would make.

We are now well under way with the implementation at Bridekirk and are beginning to see how even the youngest children are responding positively to the teaching style and structured lessons that Read Write Inc provides. Whilst this new approach is different to the way we worked in the past, we have maintained our vast experience in teaching children to read and apply this in our lessons every day.

In the *Read Write Inc. Phonics* programme, children learn sounds, the letter shapes that represent them, and how to form these letters. Then, they read books written using only the letters they have learnt (and a small number of separately taught 'tricky words'). This gives children plenty of early success and builds their reading confidence. Children will not be given books containing sounds that they are unfamiliar with.

Read Write Inc, is also a dual approach, encompassing reading and writing from a shared book that children study which is carefully matched to their level. Where, previously, children would have had an individual reading book and accessed writing lessons based on a class book, we now combine the teaching of reading and writing to ensure the children make progress at their own level. This is carefully scaffolded to ensure that children are monitored and work within smaller groups with a member of staff who has been specifically trained in the RWI strategies.

In these groups, books are studied for 3 days (Green, Purple, Pink and Orange levels) and 5 days (Yellow, Blue and Grey levels). Read Write Inc allows children to bring a book home once they have read it in school with a partner and under the observation of their reading teacher. The first read is for accuracy, the second for fluency and the third for comprehension. This means that by the time your child brings their book home it will appear 'easy' to read. This approach enables children to gain confidence in their reading ability as we never want children to feel that they 'can't do it!'

When children first enter our school in Reception, we focus on learning to read and write single letter sounds. Once children can easily recognise, write and blend these sounds into simple words, we move onto sound blending books which will then come home.

Within their plastic reading folder, children will be bringing home:

- Last and past' Storybooks: containing sounds and words the children know. This is usually the Storybook they have just read at school and maybe some they have read before, for extra practice. Please don't worry that books are too easy. Children enjoy re-reading stories they know well. Their speed and understanding improves on every read. It is important to encourage 're-reading', and see it as a chance to develop fluency and reading skills such as intonation and expression. You don't need to listen to your child read this book every day; they can be independent and read it to their teddy, sibling, friend, grandparent etc.
- Book Bag Books: matched to the Storybooks children read in school and used for extra practice. They include many of the same reading activities that we use in class and include parent guidance.
- A non-fiction book which is matched to their level.
- A 'Reading for Pleasure' book which is a book they can choose from our shelves in school. These include our focus authors (1 per half term), and well-loved titles that we read often during our whole class story times. These books can be changed by the children every day or whenever they want a new book. It is up to the children to pick these books.
- Younger children will also be bringing home a green or yellow letter formation writing book which can be written in at home following on from speed sounds lessons taught.

Ruth Miskin; the author of Read Write Inc, believes that children learn through repetition, and the programme uses this to build upon and develop skills as children move through at a steady, and carefully structured pace.

The support of parents and carers is vital to ensure the best outcomes for our children. Daily reading, has and always will, be imperative in encouraging a life-long love of reading, which in turn will develop vocabulary and lead into writing skills. At school, we are grateful for all that you do to support your children along their learning journey, which most importantly includes reading.

I have attached some links which you may wish to look at to find out some more information about Read Write Inc.
There is also a free eBook library which has some lovely books that you can access on your tablet or laptop.

Parent guide to Read Write Inc. Phonics - Oxford Owl

Free eBook library – practise reading with phonics eBooks - Oxford Owl

I really hope you have found this letter informative and helpful. If you have any further questions you can email me and I will do my best to help.
lynsey@bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk

Kind Regards



Lynsey Smith
Reading Leader