



At Godshill we believe that speaking and listening, reading and writing are the most important skills to learn for effective communication. Our aim is to help pupils to develop a love of the English language: to enjoy reading, writing and the spoken word. We do this by providing a curriculum with good quality texts, a language-rich environment and engaging stimuli. We recognise the importance of providing our pupils with a wider learning experience through visits from authors, pantomimes, book fairs and celebrations such as World Book Day. Pupils are continually encouraged to develop their English through all areas of the curriculum, as they move through the school and become skilled communicators.

### **Phonics, reading and handwriting.**

#### **What is phonics?**

Phonics is one method of teaching children how to read and write. Phonics is all about sounds. There are 44 sounds in the English language, which we put together to form words. Some are represented by one letter, like 't', and some by two or more, like 'ck' in duck and 'air' in chair. Children are taught the sounds first, then how to match them to letters, and finally how to use the letter sounds for reading and spelling. Synthetic phonics refers to 'synthesising', or blending, the sounds to read words. It is based on the idea that children should sound out unknown words and not rely on their context.

#### **Our school phonics scheme**

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Our phonics scheme is Read, Write Inc



We use the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme to give our children the very best start in reading and writing. RWI is a method of learning to read and write, through letter sounds and phonics.

Reading opens the door to learning. A child who reads a lot will become a good reader. A good reader will be able to read more challenging material. A child who reads challenging material is a child who will learn. The more a child learns, the more he or she will want to find out.

Using RWI, the children learn to read effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into comprehending what they read. It also allows them to spell effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into composing what they write.

When using RWI to read the children will:

- learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter/letter groups using simple picture prompts
- learn to read words using Fred Talk
- read lively stories featuring words they have learned to sound out
- show that they comprehend the stories by answering questions.

When using RWI to write the children will:

- learn to write the letters/letter groups which represent 44 sounds.
- learn to write words by saying the sounds in Fred Talk
- write simple sentences
- compose stories based on picture strips
- compose a range of stories based on writing frames.

### **Read Write Inc. Fresh Start** (Rescue struggling readers aged 9–1)

Read Write Inc. Fresh Start is a catch-up and intervention programme with proven results, for 9 to 13-year-olds still learning to read. It offers a simple but powerful solution to accelerate reading progress in just 25 minutes a day.

Developed by Ruth Miskin, Fresh Start teaches students at their challenge point, so they learn to read accurately and fluently. They will also develop good comprehension, spelling and punctuation skills through targeted activities.

Resources are age-appropriate, matched to students' increasing knowledge of phonics, and finely levelled to accelerate progress.

#### How does Fresh Start work?

Fresh Start provides intensive, targeted support to address specific gaps in a student's reading. Fresh Start teaches each student at their challenge point to accelerate progress. Students are taught to read sounds, words and the matched decodable Modules. The student learns to read the first set of sounds, and then how to blend the sounds together to read words. They then read simple texts containing the sounds they know, alongside learning more sounds, ready for the next set of Modules. Throughout the programme, the student is taught the English alphabetic code – the 150+ graphemes that represent the 44 speech sounds. The most common 62 are taught in three sets of Speed Sounds (see pp.14–15).

There are Speed Sounds Cards with simple mnemonics to help the student read and write the letter–sound correspondences quickly

## **Our school reading scheme**

At Godshill Primary School we use Read Write Inc' decodable books for those children beginning their journey in reading.

Beyond this, children move on to our colour-coded book band levels, and within each level there is a carefully planned progression of books.

This ensures that each child has a book matched to their reading ability. This fine progression gives children plenty of opportunity to develop their reading skills and master each fine step while moving through the reading programme.

## **Our Library**

Children will be able to pick a lovely new book every Friday each week after their previous book has been returned.

We ask that you support your child to remember to bring this book back each week on a Friday, so others can enjoy it. This is to engage our children in a wider range of texts and is a fantastic opportunity for you, and your child to enjoy reading for pleasure together. We are trying to encourage all children to read a range of different books and, also how to look after them as these resources are obviously very precious and will ensure our Library remains fully stocked with lots of quality, and well-loved books.