



Reading at Turnfurlong Infant School – September 2025

Why are we making changes to the way that we teach reading?

All school leaders should be ambitious and aiming for as many children as possible to be achieving a standard that is 'as expected' or better in reading at the end of every school year and in the Year 1 phonics screening test.

The phonics screening test is completed by every child in Year 1 in England in the Summer term. We strive for our school to achieve better than the national average in this test.

We know that when children are confidently using their phonic knowledge to read, it makes the biggest difference to their learning in all subjects. They will also be able to enjoy reading for pleasure on their own.

Reading is the most important thing that we teach at our school and we know that by making these changes children will learn to read more quickly, make better progress and more children will reach the standard in reading that is expected for their age.

What reading scheme are we using?

We had been using Read Write Inc phonics and reading books for quite a long time but we also added in other phonics-based books that children could read on their own.

From September 2025 we will only be using Read Write Inc books to teach early reading. The colours of Read Write Inc are different to book bands. You can find out more about the order that the colours follow on the Oxford Owl website. The 'Learning Set 2 Speed Sounds' tab explains this:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

When children are reading confidently and fluently we will introduce other books for reading at school. For most children this will not be until later in Year 2.

How will we teach reading?

We will teach phonics and reading together in one lesson.

Children will be taught phonics every day. They read words every day in every session. When the children know all of the sounds in 'Speed Sounds 1' and can read words with the sounds in them, we will start to introduce the Read Write Inc reading books.

Children will be taught reading with Read Write Inc reading books alongside their phonics lesson three times a week. The book that they read will be very closely matched to the sounds that they have been learning. They read the same book three times to build on their confidence and fluency, developing their expression and using a 'reader's voice'.

In the Autumn term, Reception children will be taught phonics in their classrooms. We will be running a phonics and reading workshop for parents to explain how we teach this and how you can support this at home.

How have we grouped children in Year 1 and 2?

Some children learn to read quickly and easily. Other children take a little bit longer to read confidently. We have always put children into groups for reading but this has been by class or across a year group.

From September 2025, the children in Year 1 and Year 2 have been grouped by their reading stage across the school. In January, some Reception children may join those groups.

You may notice that the colour of Read Write Inc books that your child is bringing home has changed or that it is a colour that they read last year. This is because we have carefully checked every child's reading stage using the Read Write Inc assessments. Your child hasn't 'gone backwards'. It is important to make sure that we start from exactly the point where your child is at.

Can children move groups?

We are now using the online teaching platforms for Read Write Inc. This means that we can check on every child's progress using the very accurate online assessments. It also means that we can easily see who needs more help.

Children will be assessed every half term by the two teachers who are leading Read Write Inc across the school, Mrs Baud and Mrs Marks. After an assessment, some children's Read Write Inc colour group may change.

What if a child needs more help?

Read Write Inc focuses on 'keeping up' not 'catching up'.

Some of our support staff and teachers will therefore be 'reading tutors' who work with targeted children for a few minutes every day to build their reading skills and confidence.

Where children have more complex needs, they may be following a SEN reading pathway. They will still be learning with Read Write Inc and they should still be making progress but the pace of teaching will be slower. If this is how your child is learning to read, we will talk to you about it.

Will teachers move groups?

Yes, teachers and teaching assistants will change which groups they are working with during the year. This helps make sure all our team are up to date and confident with teaching all aspects of the Read Write Inc programme, not just one age group or colour band.

What books will children bring home?

The reading books that children bring home will be their 'showing off' book. This will be a book that they have read in school and know really, really well because they will have read it at least three times in school.

Children love to show you what they can do 'all by themselves' and their Read Write Inc books will let them do this.

Reading books are very, very expensive for schools to replace and like all schools our funds are limited, even with FoTIS fundraising. Therefore, the books that children bring home will be black and white paper versions of their Read Write Inc books.

Children will also bring home a 'reading for pleasure' book from the school library. This will usually be a book that you can read to them. This will further develop their comprehension and their love of books.

What can I do to help my child at home?

Please read your child's 'showing off' book with them and celebrate their success with them. Give them lots of praise.

Please read their 'reading for pleasure' book to them or talk to them about what they are reading if it is a book that they are able to read on their own.

Soon we will also be sending home videos from Read Write Inc that you can share with your child on an electronic device to help practice their phonics and word reading at home.

And finally...

Our team has already had one full training day in September and we've got a second day of Read Write Inc training on the INSET day in November. Our reading consultant from Read Write Inc will also be coming into school to work with us to make sure that things are going well.

Read Write Inc is very, very tightly matched to children's stage of phonics knowledge. If it is used well and consistently across a school it is an excellent phonics scheme. It will be brilliant for the children at Turnfurlong Infant School but this is a big change in the way that we teach so please bear with us while we put everything into place.

Our timetable for introducing this is as follows:

Week beginning	Reception	Year 1 and 2
8 th September		Children start to take 'reading for pleasure' books from the library. Children know who is in their Read Write Inc group, where their phonics group is taught and who is teaching them.
15 th September	Read Write Inc teaching starts	Children are being taught in their phonics groups. Children are learning Speed Sounds and are engaging in reading activities in their phonics lessons.
29 th September		Children are being taught in their phonics groups. Children are learning Speed Sounds and are engaging in reading activities in their phonics lessons.
6 th October		Children start to take home Read Write Inc 'showing off' books.

How can I find out more?

We'll be running a workshop for parents where we can share more information about this face to face in greater depth.

RWI 'find out more' workshop (for parents in Year 1 and 2) - Thursday 25th September at 9am in the school hall.

Reception RWI workshop (for parents in Reception) – Tuesday 30th September at 2pm in the school hall, followed by time in the classrooms.