

Reading at home

Dear parents and carers,

At Bedwell, we aim to make all of our children readers - and that begins with every child developing a secure knowledge of phonics. It is vital that children understand the link between letters and the sounds that they represent, so that they can decode unknown words and read with confidence. We follow the Read Write Inc. programme, with each child regularly assessed to ensure that they are working at the right level and making rapid progress.

With all of this in mind, we have slightly altered the books which your child will be bringing home. They will now be given a copy of the Read Write Inc. book that they are reading in their phonics group, along with a 'Book Bag' book which uses the same phonics pattern that they are currently learning. These will be changed every three days, matching the changing books that they are using in class.

Once children have been assessed as being secured with all of their set 1, 2 and 3 sounds, they will start bringing home books which they have chosen from our reading scheme.

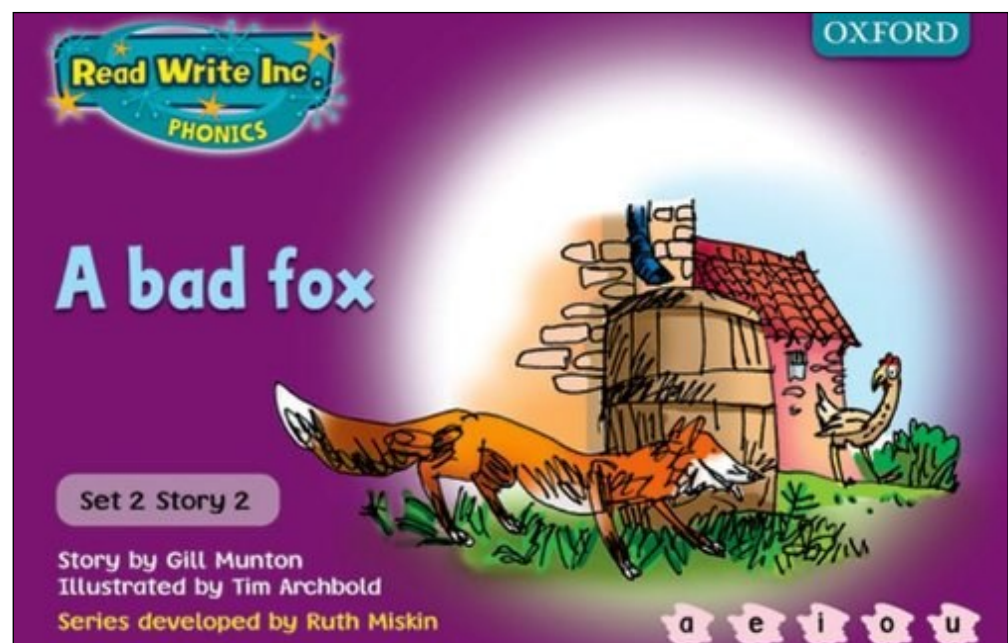
You can find out a bit more about these books (and how to use them) over the page.

RWInc Storybooks

These are copies of the storybook that your child will have read in their Read Write Inc group at school. They will have already read this story and will be familiar with all the sounds that it contains, so should be able to read the story confidently. There are lots of suggested activities and questions included in the books.

Green words and red words

- Most of the words are what we call **Green words** - these are words that can be split up into sounds that your child knows.
- **Red words** are common words that are irregular - they don't follow the patterns that your child knows, so they need to be learnt by sight. This includes words like **the**, **you** and **was**. They are coloured red in the storybooks to remind your child that they can't use their phonics to decode them.





Book Bag Books

Your child will also bring home a Book Bag Book. This book builds upon the ideas and many of the words in the storybook that they have just read. Your child will not have read this book at school, so will need more support in reading this text.

Top tips for reading together

- Don't read the book aloud before your child reads it to you.
- Ask your child to read the sounds and words before he or she reads the story.
- When your child reads the story, ask him or her to sound out the words that he or she can't read automatically. Don't ask your child to guess the word by using the pictures.
- Read back each sentence or page to keep the plot moving (your child's energy is going into reading the words, not the story).
- Be patient and give lots of praise when your child succeeds.

Progression through Read Write Inc levels:

One of the biggest strengths of the Read Write Inc programme that we follow is the clear progression through sounds, and the way these are matched to the books that children read. We work through levels as follows:

At Red, Green and Purple level, we are learning:

- Set 1 Speed Sounds: these are sounds written with one letter: m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v y w z x and sounds written with two letters (which we call 'special friends'): sh th ch qu ng nk ck
- Words containing these sounds, by sound-blending, eg. m-a-t mat, c-a-t cat, g-o-t got, f-i-sh fish, s-p-o-t spot

At Pink, Orange and Yellow level, we are learning:

- Set 2 Speed Sounds: ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy
- Words containing these sounds

At Blue and Grey level, we are learning:

- Set 3 Speed Sounds: ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure
- Words containing these sounds

Children are assessed every six weeks to ensure that they are working at the right level.