



# English Newsletter

This Newsletter is to remind you of important information about English at Featherstone Primary School.

## Phonics and Reading in Key Stage One

This year, we have introduced a brand new phonics and reading scheme for Key Stage One. The scheme is called Read Write Inc. Read Write Inc (R.W.I) is an inclusive literacy programme for all children in Reception and Key Stage One who are learning to read. Children learn the common sounds in the English language and how to blend them to read and spell. The scheme includes both a reading and a writing focus. Some parents have asked me how the levels correlate with each other—please see the below chart that shows progression through colour levels.



Each week, children accessing Red level or above will bring home two books. One is a paper copy of the book they have been reading in school. The idea of this is to build fluency and confidence. They will also bring with them another linked text that they have not yet read. This book will be fully decodable as it will only contain sounds that the children have been taught in their phonic sessions.

It is really important that all books are returned to school in good condition and on time as they belong in sets and missing books will hinder other groups of children taking home the resources that they need for that week.

The phonics scheme uses a puppet character called Fred the Frog. Fred can only talk in phonic sounds and teaches children to segment and blend to read and spell.



We are already seeing great results from the R.W.I scheme and I'd like to personally thank parents for being supportive whilst we have ironing out the inevitable bumps and kinks that come with introducing something new.

If you have any questions, please do come and see me.

## Home reading In Key Stage 2

Home reading books will continue to be changed weekly. Please leave a note in your child's reading diary when you have read with them. This helps us to build a picture of their reading habits at home.

If you do extra reading please tell us about that too! We love to hear the sorts of books children are reading at home.

All children have access to an online reading platform called Bug Club. Teachers can allocate books for the children to read at home using electronic devices.

Your teachers will be sending home login letters next week. For children who already have a login, the details will stay the same.



Learning Individual sounds  
and building words

**Ditty Stage - reading a few  
words together**

Green Stage

Purple Stage

Pink Stage

Orange Stage

Yellow Stage

Blue Stage

Grey Stage

RWI  
Colour  
progression

# ICE COOL

Ice Cool Spelling will continue as our spelling programme this this year.

Each week on Friday morning, children will be tested on their Ice Cool Spelling words. If they spell all of them correctly, they move to the next level and will receive a new spelling list. If they do not spell all the words correctly, the same list will be sent home again with errors identified.

Children who are accessing spellings from Walrus 1 upwards will be asked to put 5 words into grammatically correct sentences. These sentences must make sense and show that the child understands the meaning of the word. If children make more than 1 error in the sentence part of their test, they will not pass the level and will not receive a new list.

Your help with learning these spellings at home is really important and will help your child succeed.

The idea is that the repetition of learning the same list helps children to remember the spellings so that they can then also use them in their work. It should not be seen as a punishment or that it is holding children back. If you are concerned about your child being 'stuck' then please do come and see me so that I can have a look back over their spelling tests and work together with you to resolve concerns.

**Please ensure that your child brings their spelling diary to school every Friday.**

## 100 Book Challenge

Each Year group has been given a set reading list of 14 or 15 books to tackle by the end of the school year. The idea is to read as many as possible.



We do have at least 3 copies of each book in school so please make sure the children ask for them. It might be that they are currently on loan but we will do our best to get the copy you want out to you as soon as possible.

The authors and subjects have been chosen to reflect as wide a spectrum of life and genres as possible. The lists will always be a work in progress as fabulous new fiction is produced all the time. If you have any recommendations then please let me know.

It's always a pleasure to hear the children talking about the books they are reading. I've even had children come and ask me to order a whole series after finishing the first, which of course I did!

World Book Day is fast approaching!!!

## Thursday 5th March

My favourite day of the year is weeks away!

As usual, children will be allowed to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Please don't spend loads on a fancy costume just for the day.

Homemade outfits accessorized with thoughtful additions are often the best!

As usual there will be competitions and events in school to help us

The Book Fair will be in school for part of the week too!

WORLD  
BOOK  
DAY

Get your thinking caps on!

WORLD  
BOOK  
DAY

If you have any questions or you would like to discuss any part of Featherstone's English provision or if I can help in anyway, then please do come and chat to me! I love to hear about children's reading and writing success and my door is always open

Miss Lacey English Leader

