



3rd February 2022

Dear Parents,

At Bowes, the children learn how to read and spell from Reception by following a systematic approach. We use Read, Write, Inc. materials to teach our children phonics and how to read. All of the information regarding our phonics programme can be found [on our website](#), alongside resources for parents to use at home. We also hope you found our parent workshops helpful. If you were unable to attend, please click the following two links to access the slides shared during our presentations: [Reception Phonics](#) [KS1 Phonics](#)

Assessment and Organisation of the Reading Groups

The Read, Write, Inc. (RWI) Phonics programme aims for children to be fluent and able readers by the end of the Spring Term in Year 2. We understand that all children learn at a different pace and to this end, we have made a slight change to the organisation of our teaching groups for phonics and reading across Key Stage 1.

Every half term, the children are informally assessed on their sounds. These assessments clearly show each child's progress over time. The children are then grouped in accordance with their phonic knowledge and learn a RWI book which corresponds with their reading ability. These groups are fluid and will change half-termly, based on the assessment information. On some occasions, it may mean that children repeat books to ensure their learning is secure. Once the children have finished the RWI programme, and are fluent and confident readers, they will begin taking part in 'Active Reading' sessions.

Active Reading

Texts for the Active Reading sessions are selected by the class teachers. These could be linked to the core text being studied in some English lessons or to the wider curriculum. The texts cover all genres: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, songs and picture books over a term. All children have the opportunity to read to the teacher across these sessions.

Active Reading is based on the MIDAS (Making Inference a Difference Across Schools) strategies. Different strategies are applied to the text/s each day, some of which include predicting/asking questions, retrieval of information, inference and summarising.

What will my child bring home to read?

Children following the RWI Programme of Study:

Every Monday, the children in each group will start to learn a new RWI book. They will study this book over the course of the week and **bring it home to read every Thursday**. Please note that your child has been learning to read this book over the course of the week, and therefore should be able to read it with confidence and expression.

We also like to encourage reading for pleasure and have recently invested in many new books for our class libraries. Each week, the children will bring home a book of their choice to read.

Please take the time to read these books with your child and write any relevant notes of your reading session in their Reading Record. This gives our teachers an opportunity to see how they are getting on with their reading at home.

Please could you ensure that the **RWI book** is returned to school every **Thursday**. Your child's **class library book** should be returned on the day specified by their class teacher.

Children taking part in Active Reading:

Once your child moves onto Active Reading sessions, they will no longer bring home a RWI book. The texts they study for the week will remain in school. Your child will bring home a book which is matched to their reading ability and selected by their class teacher. The children will change these books every week. As with the RWI books, please take the time to read with your child and write any relevant notes of your reading session in their Reading Record. Each week, the children will also bring home a book of their choice to read.

Your child's **reading book and their chosen library book** should be returned on the days specified by their class teacher.

If you have any further questions about how we teach phonics and reading, please speak to your child's class teacher. Thank you for your continued support.

With my best wishes,

Effie Demetriou
Headteacher

