

At Dukes we follow the Read Write Inc. scheme for phonics teaching. We begin by teaching all single letter set one sounds, before introducing the 'special friends' which are where two letters make one sound. We introduce these sounds slowly to ensure that these are embedded, before moving on to a new sound. We teach phonics for half an hour each day. In these sessions we focus on one letter, we teach the children how to correctly pronounce the sound, as well as how to write it.

After Christmas, following assessment, we split the cohort into several smaller phonics groups to address any gaps in knowledge and teach new sounds as appropriate. Once the children are secure with their set one sounds, and can confidently use them in their reading and writing, we begin to slowly teach set two sounds. In these phonic lessons we revisit sounds previously taught as well as teach new sounds, we also practise reading and writing.

When the children start school, they are given a library book to share at home. Once they have been taught the set one sounds, and can use them confidently, we begin to send reading books home. These books include the sounds that your child has learnt in school, and allows them to practise reading them, gaining fluency. We also send links home to videos of individual phonic sounds, to address any gaps the children may have and allow them to further practise their phonic skills at home. We also update reading records regularly with any new sounds your child has learned to allow for .. from home. As your child learns new sounds, they may progress through the reading scheme onto more complex books.

We also send home blending books to assist children who are confident in their phonic knowledge, yet still learning to blend the sounds together to read a word.