

Phonics Curriculum

At All Saints and St Margaret's we recognise that being able to read is the most important skill children will learn during their early school life. Phonics is the prime method we use for teaching children how to read and spell words. Children have a short daily phonics lesson in reception and Year 1 (and sometimes into Year 2 and beyond if necessary). This is taught using the Read Write Inc scheme.

Children learn to recognise letters by their 'sounds' and then blend these sounds into words.

The first sounds children learn are those written with one letter e.g. **m a s d t i n**

Children learn to blend these sounds into words. This is where Fred the frog helps us. Fred can only say the *sounds* in a word and needs the children to help him read the word. So, when you hear your child say 'Fred Talk', you'll know this means sounding out the word.

Fred says 'h-o-p.' We say 'hop.'

Other examples are m-a-t *mat*, g-o-t *got*, s-p-o-t *spot*, b-e-s-t *best*

Some sounds are written with two or more letters e.g. **sh ch ay ee igh**. We refer to these as 'special friends.' Children are taught to spot the special friends in a word before reading it.

e.g. f-i-sh *fish*, ch-i-n *chin*, p-l-ay *play*, s-ee-n *seen*, l-igh-t *light*

In the summer term of Year 1, children will take the Phonics screening check. This is done in a very low key way and the children are usually not aware that it is different from any other one-to-one word reading session. Any children who do not meet the required standard will continue to have phonics lessons into Year 2 and will retake the screening check in the summer term of Year 2.