



Phonics and Early Reading Intent, Implementation and Impact Statement

Our Vision is of an inclusive, happy and successful school at the heart of the local community. Together, our families and staff help our children to become confident, independent learners that care for themselves, each other and the environment around them. Be brilliant, be bold, be kind and together we will believe, learn and achieve.

Phonics Lead: Caitlin Hues

Curriculum Intent

At Marlborough St Mary's, our engaging, active curriculum is inclusive, experiential and rooted in our Christian values. We enrich children's learning through practical, cross-curricular experiences that spark curiosity and resilience, enabling every child to thrive. We place a strong emphasis on the fundamental skills of reading and talk, ensuring our pupils develop a love of reading that opens doors to knowledge and imagination and the ability to communicate with clarity, confidence and respect. We want our pupils to feel a strong sense of connection: to each other, their families, our school and the wider community. Through partnerships with local schools, businesses and community groups, children learn to see their place in the wider world and understand how they can contribute positively to it. We also believe that joy should be at the heart of childhood. Our curriculum is deliberately designed to create moments of happiness, wonder and delight - experiences that make pupils smile, laugh and love learning.

Our curriculum is challenging, sequential and aspirational for all. It builds knowledge and skills over time while linking learning to real-life experiences. In doing so, we support children to grow independence, creativity and self-belief, preparing them to take their place as responsible and compassionate citizens of the Marlborough community and as citizens of the wider world.

Subject Intent

At Marlborough St. Mary's, we believe that reading lies at the core of developing lifelong learners. By creating a language-rich environment, we foster a love for reading and inspire a continuous thirst for knowledge in all our children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our classrooms and well-stocked library feature high-quality, culturally diverse texts from a variety of authors. We believe every child can become a confident, fluent reader.

Our approach starts with the Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics program, which equips children with the skills to decode unfamiliar words and build comprehension skills, helping them understand and find meaning in what they read. Our commitment to reading is shared by all staff members, who engage with children in reading opportunities throughout the day, ensuring that each child feels supported in their journey, no matter their starting point.

Curriculum Implementation

To ensure consistency, progression and high expectations for all, our phonics teaching follows the **Read Write Inc. (RWI)** scheme, delivered daily with fidelity and consistency across the school.

Our approach to Phonics and Early Reading draws on our four school drivers which are-



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- **Talk:** Each lesson is rich in dialogue. Children practise articulating sounds clearly, blending and segmenting words aloud, and discussing their reading with partners. Teachers model precise pronunciation and encourage children to use new vocabulary confidently in conversation, drama and storytelling.
- **Read:** From Reception, children engage with phonetically decodable texts matched to their reading level. They practise decoding, comprehension and fluency daily, supported by additional 1:1 tutoring where necessary. Regular assessments ensure that all children make steady progress and receive texts that both challenge and motivate them.
- **Connection:** We build strong links with families through matched home-reading books, virtual classroom resources and celebration of success. Our phonics journey begins in partnership with local pre-schools, creating smooth transitions and shared approaches to early reading. Children also connect their learning through visits, storytelling sessions and community reading projects that show reading's relevance in the wider world.
- **Joy:** Early reading lessons are lively and engaging, full of songs, rhymes, games and stories. Interactive resources, drama and role-play allow children to explore sounds in playful ways. We celebrate progress through certificates, class displays and shared reading events that promote pride, laughter and enthusiasm.

We maintain a communication-friendly environment, with text-rich displays, calm reading areas and inviting book corners. Staff receive ongoing coaching from our reading leader to ensure that phonics teaching remains highly effective and joyful for all. In addition to our daily phonics sessions, children also have a short second session each day working on time on the sounds as well as developing fluency.

Impact

With our dedicated approach to Early reading, our children will:

- Apply their phonics skills confidently to decode words, enhancing fluency and expression.
- Learn and utilise higher-level vocabulary, broaden their creativity, and apply these skills across curriculum subjects.
- Read for meaning, enabling them to retell stories, make predictions, and provide evidence-based inferences.
- Reach their full potential through early identification and support for those who may be disadvantaged.
- Cultivate a lifelong habit of reading for knowledge, joy, and personal growth.