



Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Fuller  
Deputy Head: Mrs Emily Hair  
Assistant Head: Mr Martin Phillips  
Greenside Primary School  
Chapeltown  
Pudsey  
Leeds  
LS28 8NZ  
Tel: 0113 257 4509  
Email: [admin.info@greenside-sch.org](mailto:admin.info@greenside-sch.org)  
Website: <http://www.greenside-sch.org>

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Greenside, we aim to provide opportunities for parents/carers to work alongside their child or children to support their learning in school. We strive for a strong partnership between school and home to help your child to reach their potential. In this pack, you will find guidance and resources to help support your child make a strong start to their time at Primary School.

### Phonics and Early Reading

Teaching phonics is a statutory requirement in primary schools in England, with most schools using a government approved systematic synthetic phonics teaching programme (SSP). Phonics lessons develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the relationship between written symbols and sounds. This involves the skills of hearing, identifying and using the patterns of sounds (phonemes) to read written language. The aim is to systematically teach pupils the relationship between these sounds and the written spelling patterns (graphemes), which represent them.

At Greenside we use 'Read Write Inc. Phonics' to teach pupils how to read in Reception and Key Stage 1. Your child will learn to read in a very simple way. They will learn to:



1. Read letters by their 'sounds'
2. Blend these sounds into words
3. Read the words in a story.

Scan the QR codes below to view useful videos regarding your child's phonics learning. These videos will be available until 13<sup>th</sup> January 2027.



What is RWI phonics?



Understanding phonics

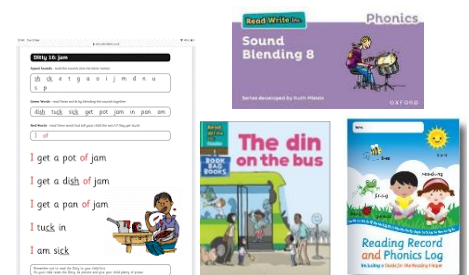


How to say the sounds



Listening to your child read

When your child is ready, they will begin to bring home materials to read such as a Book Bag Book or Ditty Sheet. These sheets/books build on the ideas taught and are closely linked to what they have read in school that week. Once you have listened to your child read at home, please record this in their school planner so that school staff can see how they are getting on at home. All reading materials (Blending Books, Ditty Sheets, Book Bag Books and Reading Together Books) are changed weekly on a Friday.



We have story time daily in school so children develop a love of stories. We hope that you will do the same by reading regularly with your child at home. To support you and your child with reading stories at home, each Friday (providing they have returned the previous book), pupils will be able to choose a **‘Reading Together’** book. We hope these picture books, which are to be enjoyed together with an adult at home, will develop a child’s love of reading.



Within this pack, you will find further guidance on how phonics is taught and how you can further support your child at home with their reading. QR codes for virtual classroom videos of Set 1 Sounds are also included so that you can see how a speed sounds lesson is taught and you can support your child further consolidate what they are learning at school.

## Handwriting and Spelling

At Greenside, we also follow the Read Write Inc. Schemes for spelling and handwriting. This provides a consistent approach for pupils to ensure that they master these key foundational skills of writing.

For early **handwriting**, we use phrases to help your child to remember how to form each letter correctly (please see separate handout). It is important that pupils always practise writing sitting at a table and write on paper with a sharp pencil. Pupils should always sit in their ‘perfect handwriting position’, known to the children as BBC (Bum Back of Chair) and TNT (Tummy Near Table). Scan the QR code for further details.

- m** Maisie, mountain, mountain
- a** round the apple, down the leaf
- s** slither down the snake
- d** round the dinosaur's bottom, up its tall neck and down to the feet



In Reception and Year 1, **spelling** is taught as part of our phonics lessons, using the sounds that they already know. Pupils use ‘Fred Fingers’ to segment the word into sounds so that they can accurately write it down. For example, a child writing the word ‘pot’ would recognise that there are 3 sounds, show 3 fingers and pinch each finger in turn sounding out p – o – t. In Reception, words can be spelt phonetically (i.e. written how they sound). Scan the QR code for further details.



## Common Exception Words

Common exception words are words that your child will come across regularly but can’t be phonetically decoded (i.e. can’t be sounded out and blended together) and therefore must be learnt to be read by sight. There are nine sets of common exception words for pupils to learn as they progress through Reception and into Year 1 and your child will receive flash cards for each set to practise at home. Once your child knows a set, please leave a note in their school planner; we will then check and issue the next set of flash cards. Reception staff will also periodically check how your child is getting on with recognising their key words.

Here are some fun ideas to help your child to learn their key words:



| Set 1                              | Set 2                                  | Set 3                                 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a<br>I<br>of<br>the<br>was         | he<br>be<br>me<br>she<br>we            | do<br>to<br>today<br>by<br>my         |
| Set 4                              | Set 5                                  | Set 6                                 |
| is<br>his<br>has<br>are<br>were    | no<br>go<br>so<br>they<br>school       | come<br>some<br>love<br>one<br>once   |
| Set 7                              | Set 8                                  | Set 9                                 |
| you<br>your<br>our<br>said<br>says | here<br>there<br>where<br>house<br>ask | put<br>push<br>pull<br>full<br>friend |

## Homework

At Greenside, we provide all children with homework to enable them to practise skills and consolidate their learning. Sometimes the aim is to repeat a skill learnt in class as a practise exercise. On other occasions, the homework will ask children to apply their learning in context. The homework expectations for Reception are shown below and our full homework policy can be found on the school website.

|                  | RWI and Reading                                                                                                                                                      | Phonics, Writing & SPAG                                                                                                                                                                                               | Maths                                                                                                                                   | Numbots                                                            |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reception</b> | At least 4 times a week using RWI resources (e.g. Home Reader books) and Oxford Owl.<br><br>Parents/carers should find regular opportunities to read to their child. | Practise Common Exception words and phonics sounds as regularly as possible.<br><br>Weekly written homework (either English or Maths) in homework books: e.g. letter formation, writing words, phrases and sentences. | Weekly written homework (either English or Maths) in homework books: e.g. number formation, counting or other Maths learning objective. | Regular Numbots usage encouraged (e.g. 5 minutes 3 times per week) |

All homework is set on Friday and is expected to be returned to school by the following Wednesday. Pupils will receive their work in green homework books. Written homework is an expectation in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, so by introducing it in Reception, we hope that it will prepare them well. Reception homework shouldn't take more than 10 minutes and doesn't have to be completed all in one go.



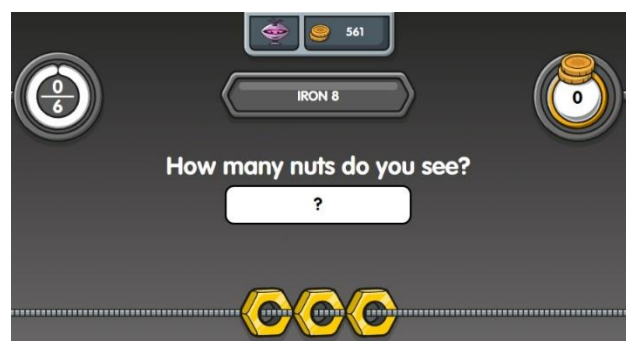
Pupils also have access to 2 online learning platforms: Numbots and Oxford Owl. Log-in details for these can be found inside your child's school planner:

**Numbots** <https://play.NumBots.com/> Numbots is a platform for supporting your child's number recognition, addition and subtraction skills. Using this program will improve your child's counting, recognition of numerals and their recall and understanding of number bonds, addition facts and subtraction facts. There are 2 game modes:



**Story Mode:** the emphasis is on learning the ideas and concepts behind addition and subtraction so activities feature more diagrams, shapes and a range of question styles. Pupils work through activities in a progressive manner and earn coins to build a robot.

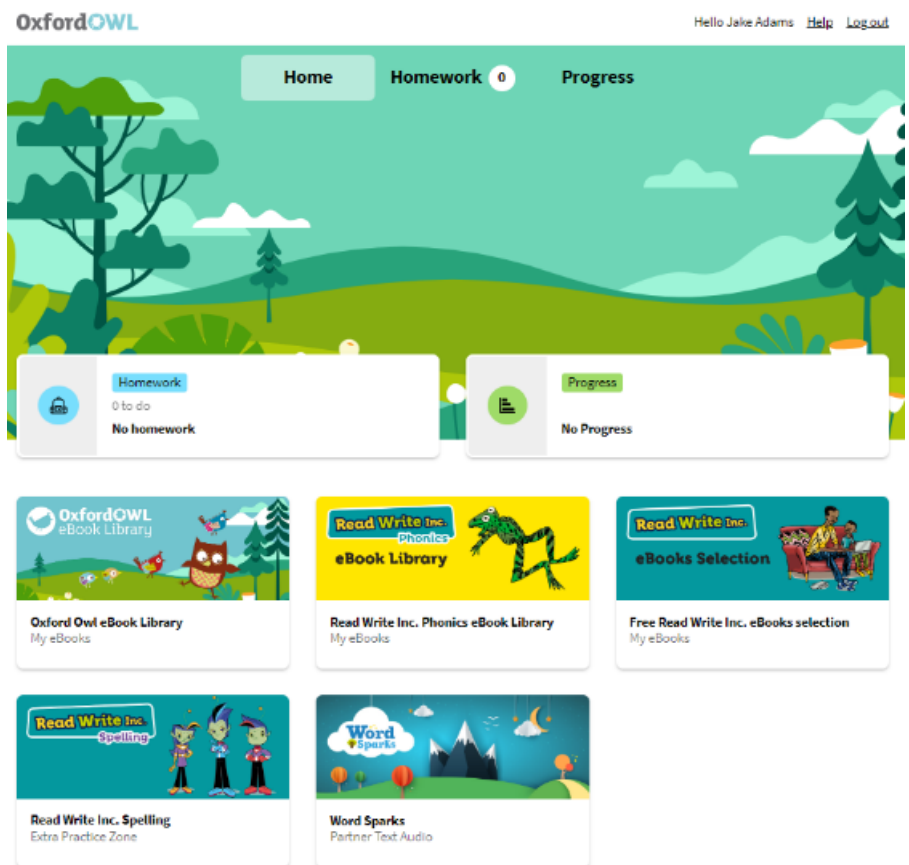
**Challenge Mode:** the emphasis is more on speed of recall of key facts such as number bonds to 10, doubling small numbers or adding/taking-away mentally. There are 20 different activities for your child to choose.



These are some example questions from levels of the story mode. If your child gains 2 or 3 stars on a level (awarded for accuracy and speed of their answers), they will unlock the next level.

## **Oxford Owl**

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/login> is an online portal that has a number of features to support your child with their reading and spelling. There are lots of extra texts that your child can read to supplement their home reader book. Books and quizzes will also be assigned by your child's class teacher to complete.



If you have any further questions about supporting your child with their learning, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr Phillips  
Assistant Headteacher  
EY & KS1 Phase Leader, Curriculum and Assessment Lead  
Greenside Primary School

