

Our Curriculum

Early Years Foundation Stage

Phonics

At Exeter a learning community we have adopted RWI for our teaching approach to phonics and spelling from nursery through to year 6. Read Write Inc. is a whole-school literacy programme designed and developed by Ruth Miskin. The programme aims to create fluent readers, willing writers and confident speakers.

What is Read Write Inc?

Read Write Inc (RWI) is a phonics based programme which helps children learn to read whilst also developing a wide range of vocabulary and encouraging a love of stories. It was developed by Ruth Miskin and more information on this can be found at www.ruthmiskinliteracy.com

How will it work?

Our phonics teaching and learning begins in the EYFS; it is taught systematically and actively through multisensory experiences to ensure that learning is engaging. Phonics sessions are taught on a daily basis and are made up of learning sounds, using actions, playing games and reading words, following a combination of the Read Write Inc, and the Letters and Sounds programmes.

Our phonics programme aims to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills from EYFS through to Year Six. Children are taught the different sounds that letters make as well as the different combinations. Children also progress through high frequency word lists that they need to learn to read and spell. Sessions also cover how to segment words into their separate sounds as well as how to blend sounds together to make words (which also supports spelling).

In June, all Year One children will undertake a statutory Phonics Screening. The aim is to check that a child is making the expected progress in phonics and using skills to decode unfamiliar words in their reading. The check comprises of a list of 40 words, both real and nonsense, which the child reads one-to-one with a teacher. For any children who do not pass the check, extra support will be given and they will then resit the test in Year 2. If they do not pass the test in Year 2 they will receive specific phonic interventions to meet their individual needs in Year 3.

Useful links

[Phonics Handout for Parents - Read Write Inc](#)

[Video: Understanding RWInc for parents](#)

[Video: Sound Pronunciation Guide](#). This video will help you see how we teach sounds at Exeter alc.

[Read Write Inc. Reading and Writing Kit](#). This pack is available online and would be a great support to all new readers.

[Information on Reading in School](#)

What is read write inc phonics?

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/parent-tutorial-1-understanding-read-write-inc-phonics/>

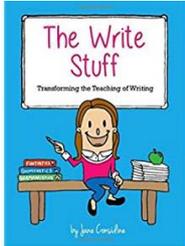
How to support your child to blend at home

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/parent-tutorial-teaching-sound-blending/>

10 things to think about when reading

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/information-parents-10-things-think-about-when-you-read-your-child/>

Writing



At Exeter a learning community we have adopted 'Write Stuff' as our approach to writing. Write Stuff brings clarity to the mechanics of the teaching of writing. It follows a method called 'sentence stacking'. Sentence stacking refers to the fact that sentences are grouped together chronologically or organizationally to engage children with short, intensive moments of learning that they can apply immediately to their writing.

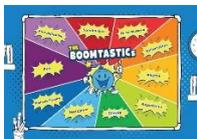
An individual lesson is based on a sentence model, broken into three separate chunks:

1. Initiate section – a stimulus to capture the children's imagination and set up a sentence
2. Model section – the teacher close models a sentence that outlines clear writing features and techniques
3. Enable section – the children write their sentence following the model.

It reinforces grammar through the use of:



The FANTASTICS, which are an acronym that summarise the ideas of writing



The BOOMTASTIC which helps children capture 10 ways of adding drama and poetic devices to writing in a vivid visual



The Grammar Rainbow is a classroom tool that enables the teacher to drive key grammar messages.

Through cross-curricular writing opportunities, teachers will seek to take advantage of opportunities to make cross-curricular links. They will plan for pupils to practise and apply the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired through English lessons to other areas of the curriculum.

Reading

A love of books changes lives. Children who read for pleasure are likely to do better at school, as well as be more socially, culturally and emotionally prepared for life.

In fact, reading enjoyment is more important for a child's educational success than their family's financial or social status.



At Exeter a learning community we have adopted 'Hooked on Books' as our approach to reading. 'Hooked on Books' helps to build the right reading culture and community in our schools. The approach provides effective teaching of reading and practical strategies for use in our classrooms.

When starting on their reading journey, children have a book from the reading scheme and a book that they have selected with an adult from the school library. We encourage children and parents to work in partnership with the school to support their reading development. We predominantly use the Oxford Reading Scheme to provide a progressive structure for children's decoding and comprehension skills.

From Year 2 to Year 6 the children use Rigby Navigator scheme to choose books that are appropriate to their reading comprehension and decoding stage. Through the class and school libraries, children can also select books of particular interest to them.

Mathematics

Mathematics introduces children to concepts, skills and thinking strategies that are essential in everyday life and support learning across the curriculum. It helps children make sense of the numbers, patterns and shapes they see in the world around them, offers ways of handling data in an increasingly digital world and makes a crucial contribution to their development as successful learners.

Children delight in using mathematics to solve a problem, especially when it leads them to an unexpected discovery or new connections. As their confidence grows, they look for patterns, use logical reasoning, suggest solutions and try out different approaches to problems.

Mathematics offers children a powerful way of communicating. They learn to explore and explain their ideas using symbols, diagrams and spoken and written language. They start to discover how mathematics has developed over time and contributes to our economy, society and culture.

Studying mathematics stimulates curiosity, fosters creativity and equips children with the skills they need in life beyond school.

Foundation Subjects:

At Exeter a learning community we follow a creative, topic based approach to learning that ensures that children acquire the skills and knowledge in the foundation subjects. It is closely linked to the 2014 Primary National Curriculum, to ensure comprehensive coverage of national expectations and mapped to the 'Programmes of Study'.

Further details on Programmes of Study for each subject area can be accessed here. (embed link to NC programmes of study).

Our creative curriculum is delivered through Imaginative Learning Projects (ILPs) which will provide a rich menu of exciting and motivating learning activities that make creative links between all aspects of our children's learning. We believe children learn better when they are encouraged to use their imagination and apply their learning to engaging and purposeful contexts. Our curriculum provides lots of learning challenges throughout the year that will require children to solve problems, apply themselves creatively and express their knowledge and understanding effectively across the curriculum.

Each Theme takes place over a period of about 8 weeks, Children will progress through four distinct stages of learning in each Imaginative Learning Project – **Engage, Develop, Innovate** and **Express**.



Each term a newsletter will go out to parents to let you know what the topic is for the term; what the children will be learning; ways to get involved at home. Please refer to the newsletters on the home page for each year group to see what is happening this term.

Topics planned for Academic Year 2018 to 2019

	Autumn term 1	Autumn term 2	Spring term 1	Spring term 2	Summer term 1	Summer term 2
Year 1	Memory Box	Splendid skies	Enchanted Woodland	Moon zoom	Dinosaur planet	Rio de Vida
Year 2	Mess, Muck & Mixtures	Towers, Tunnels & Turrets	Street Detectives	The Scented Garden	Land Ahoy!	Beachcombers
Year 3	Mighty Metals	Heroes and Villains	Predator	Tribal Tales	Flow	Tremors
Year 4	Bottoms Burps and Bile	Traders and Raiders	Blue Abyss	Playlist	1066	Misty Mountain Sierra
Year 5	Beast Creator	Stargazers	Pharoahs	Time Traveller	Peasants and Princes	Scream Machine
Year 6	Fallen Fields	<i>A Child's War</i>	<i>Frozen Kingdom</i>	Hola Mexico	Blood Heart	

SMSC

What is SMSC? SMSC stands for Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural

At Exeter a learning community we have created a long term plan covering all aspects of Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural features. This plan is constantly reviewed as we take into account our rapidly changing world and learning opportunities which arise within SMSC. This plan covers all aspects of SMSC throughout the whole school, showing our creative and broad curriculum is embedded throughout.

Social development shows pupils working together effectively, relating well to adults and participating in the local community. Being able to take ownership of their own behaviour and understand the impact of their behaviour.

Moral development is largely about choices, behaviour and how you live your life. It's also about personal and societal values, understanding the difference between right and wrong.

Spiritual development is concerned with developing the non-material aspects of life, focusing on personal insight, values, meaning and purpose.

Cultural development is about understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and experiencing a range of cultural activities (art, theatre, travel, concerts). Understanding and having an open mind regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others within the school and surrounding community.

Our Exeter values underpin much of what we do through our SMSC focus. Read more about our Exeter values. – [insert link to powerpoint](#)