RWI Workshop for Parents

Read Write Inc. Phonics

January 2025

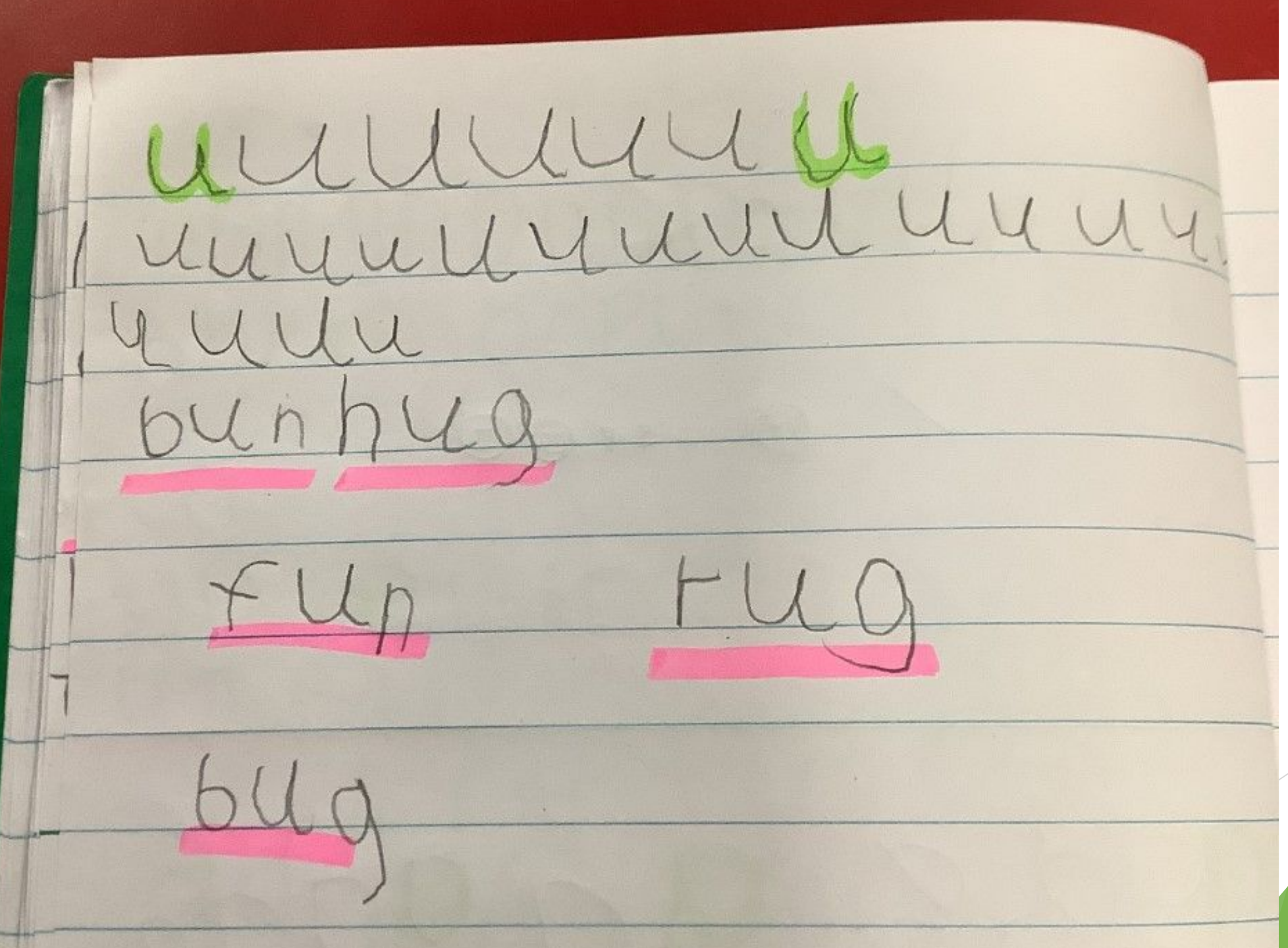
What is phonics?

mat	ship

- All words are made up of individual sounds which we call phonemes.
- These sounds are blended together to form words e.g. in ‘mat’ we have the sounds ‘m’, ‘a’, ‘t’, ship – ‘sh’, ‘i’, ‘p’.
- A grapheme is another name for the letters we use to write the sound. It’s spelling of a sound on the page.

English Alphabetic Code

- 44 sounds
- 26 letters
- Over 150+ graphemes (letter combinations)
- One of the most complex alphabetic codes in the world.



Using phonics, children learn to read by saying each sound and blending them to read a word.

Children learn to spell by segmenting a word into sounds and writing the matching graphemes.

Speed Sounds Sets 1 and 2

Consonant sounds – stretchy

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng nk

Consonant sounds – bouncy

b	c k	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch

Vowel sounds – bouncy

a	e	i	o	u

Vowel sounds – stretchy

ay	ee	igh	ow

Vowel sounds – stretchy

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy

Speed Sounds Set 3

Consonant sounds

f ff ph	l ll le	m mm mb	n nn kn	r rr wr	s ss se c ce	v ve	z zz s se	sh ti ci	th	ng nk

b bb	c k ck ch	d dd	g gg	h	j g ge dge	p pp	qu	t tt	w wh	x	y	ch tch

Vowel sounds

a	e ea	i	o	u	ay a-e ai	ee e-e y ea e	igh i-e ie i y	ow o-e oa o

oo u-e ue ew	oo	ar	or oor ore aw au	air are	ir ur er	ou ow	oy oi	ire	ear	ure

Special Friends – two or more letters making one sound e.g. ‘sh’ or ‘igh’

ship

Fred Talk

- Fred helps children learn to blend sounds into a word.
- Fred can only speak in sounds. He says d-o-g, h-a-t etc.
- He says the sounds c-a-t, and then children help him to say the word.
- This is how we quickly teach all of our children to blend orally.
- We practise blending orally so children will find word-reading easier.

Fred Talk

+

=

sat

Alongside teaching children sounds, we teach them to blend sounds to read words e.g. s-a-t, sat.

Once children can read sounds speedily and understand Fred, they can decode words.

Spelling with Fred

- We use Fred Fingers to help children sound out words to spell easily.
- It means they do not have to memorise lists of spelling words.
- It is a tool so they will be able to spell any word.

Red Words

- Some words are ‘tricky’ because they contain letters that don’t match the sounds the child has been taught. For example, ‘said’ has ‘ai’ making an ‘e’ sound.
- We teach these common exception words as Red words.
- In the early Storybooks, these words are printed in red text.
- Remind your child not to use Fred Talk to read Red words but instead to stop and think if they know the word. Tell them the word if needed.

I

said

This is Red Hat Rob.

“I will grab that cash box,” he said.

Progress Groups

- Group children by phonic stages.
- Teach to the group's challenge level.
- Re-assess all children every half term.

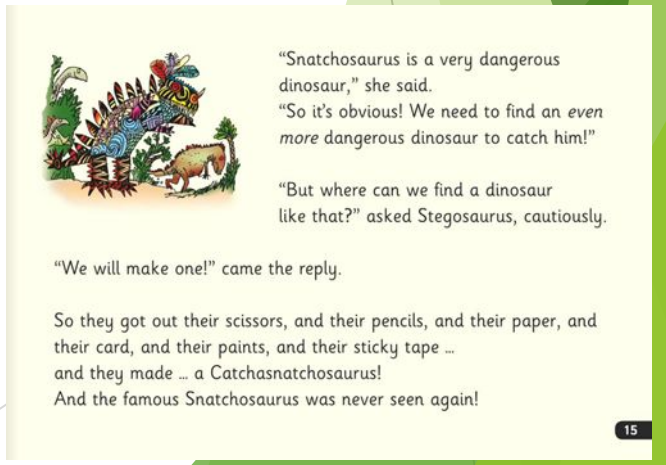
Further advice and support

https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education

https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents/

Reading

- In our school, children read Read Write Inc. Storybooks that match the sounds they can read during their GGR sessions.
- They re-read each Read Write Inc. Storybook in class with their teacher, small group or a partner.
- Re-reading the same book helps children to become confident readers. Each time they re-read, they build their fluency/speed and comprehension.
- They love reading and want to read because they can read all of the words in the storybook.



Reading at home

- Reading books have words to ‘Fred talk’ and red words.
- If they hesitate, remind them to read the word using ‘Special Friends, Fred Talk,’. For example, this means they spot the ‘sh’, then Fred Talk and blend to read the word e.g. sh, sh-i-p, ship.
- Little and often (daily)

Reading at home

- We make sure that every book that goes into your child's book bag is a well-loved book.
- The more they read, the faster progress they will make.
- Please avoid saying, "This book is too easy for you!" but instead say "I love how well you can read this book!"
- Reading for meaning – comprehension e.g. Chat about the story *i.e. I wonder why he did that? Oh no, I hope she's not going to… I wouldn't have done that, would you?*
- Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.

Ten top tips for reading stories to your child

1 Make reading to your child feel like a treat.
Introduce each new book with excitement.

2 Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so both of you can see the book.

3 Show curiosity in what you're going to read:

Oh no! I think Arthur is going to get even angrier now.

4 Read the whole story the first time through without stopping too much. If you think your child might not understand something, model an explanation:

Oh I think what's happening here is that...

5 Chat about the story:

I wonder why he did that?

Oh no, I hope she's not going to...

I wouldn't have done that, would you?

6 Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.

7 Link stories to your own experiences (e.g. *This reminds me of...*)

8 Read favourite stories over and over again.
Get your child to join in with the bits they know.

9 Read with enthusiasm. Don't be embarrassed to try out different voices. Your child will love it.

10 Read with enjoyment.
If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.

Any questions?