



# CROPWELL BISHOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

January 2022

Dear Key Stage 1 Parents and Carers,

## The teaching of Phonics

During 2021 the government investigated this crucially important area of the Key Stage 1 curriculum and have validated several published phonics teaching schemes, including the 'Read Write Inc' scheme.

Considering this government decision, we, as a school, decided to review our own phonics teaching.



Our previous Cropwell Bishop phonics scheme used some of the 'Read Write Inc' phonic rhymes and images to help the children recognise individual letters, groups of letters and their corresponding sounds. The children have enjoyed and been successful learning phonics using the 'Read Write Inc' rhymes and so we have decided to go further and teach the complete 'Read Write Inc' scheme as of January 2022.

The 'Read Write Inc' scheme teaches new sounds using a systematic and progressive approach whilst consistently reviewing previous sounds to consolidate learning. Although the rhymes and images will be familiar to the children, they will be learning new routines, how to spot groups of letters within words, how to read with fluency and how to apply this new knowledge in their spelling.

There is more information about the 'Read Write Inc' phonics scheme, how it is implemented in Cropwell Bishop School and how you can help at home, in the phonics section of our School Website.

## Reading Books to take home



To support the 'Read Write Inc' phonics scheme there are '**Book Bag Books**' for your child to take home. These books are matched to the sounds they know and we ask that the books are read and re-read three times to build self-esteem and enjoyment in reading as well as to allow them to show off their reading skills to you! There are useful instructions for parents at the front of the book. In the **first read** your child will be focussing on reading each word individually and it may seem robotic. In

this phase very little comprehension of the story is likely. In the **second read**, their word recognition will become quicker allowing a faster pace and better understanding of the story. In the **third read**, the speed should be much quicker and therefore the child is using more brain power to understand the story rather than on reading each word. This is the point when the story becomes meaningful and pleasurable and they can answer questions based on the content. There are questions at the end of the book to check understanding and promote discussion of the story.

Please don't worry if your child at first finds their 'Book Bag Book' challenging, 3 (or more reads) in a week will allow your child to practise and grow in reading confidence.

If your child reads the book quickly encourage your child to read with greater fluency, pace and expression in the next read, and remember to ask the comprehension questions at the back of the book.

As well as a 'Read Write Inc Book Bag Book' your child will continue to bring home a '**Coloured Book Band**' book. These have a coloured sticker on the spine of the book. Your child will be able to read most of the words in these books however there may be words that cannot be phonetically decoded, and it is OK to tell your child the word.

Reading books will be changed once a week for the whole of Key Stage 1, please remember to read each book with your child 3 times per week (or more). Keeping the same books for a week will enable your child to become really confident with every book they read, we want every child to feel like a successful reading star!

We hope that your child will find learning to read through the 'Read Write Inc' scheme rewarding and most of all fun!

Thank you again for your support in helping your child to read.

Key Stage 1 Team