

## The Phonics Programme at Bishop Wood C of E Junior School

When Year 3 pupils enter this school they are usually very able readers. However there are always some children with weaker phonic and decoding skills so our priority is to address this as quickly as possible through a structured phonics programme which takes place each morning during the Guided Reading sessions.

The programme we use is "Read Write Inc" devised by Ruth Miskin. We chose this programme because it follows on from the programme used in our feeder infant school and has been proven to have a significant impact on the pupils ability to read and understand written text effectively. The "Read Write Inc." programmes teach reading and writing. Talking is a critical and integral part of this programme.

At the core of "Read Write Inc." is the lively and vigorous teaching of synthetic phonics. Children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and how to sound blend words for reading (decoding) at the same time as developing handwriting and spelling (encoding). They read story books and non fiction books with words they can decode so they achieve success in reading. The more sounds they know, the greater the range of texts that they can read. As children are taught to decode and encode, they are also taught to comprehend and compose out loud, the quicker their encoding the more they write of what they have composed out loud.

This is a system that promotes fluent and confident readers and as a result children begin to develop a way of thinking necessary for all school learning-discursive thought; the ability to hold and develop a complex network of ideas and arguments.

The three programmes we currently teach are:

### "Read Write Inc Phonics"

This is an inclusive Literacy programme for children learning to read from foundation Level to Year 4 currently reading at Level 2b or below. It is also suitable for children in older year groups who have significant learning difficulties including specific literacy problems. Children will achieve a Level 2a and above when the programme has been completed.

"Read Write Inc Fresh Start"

This follows a similar format to Read Write Inc Phonics but it is aimed at children in Years 5,6, and 7 who are currently reading below Level 3. It uses age appropriate texts which makes it more appropriate for older learners.

"Read Write Inc Spelling"

This is a quick 10 minute a day spelling programme for children who can read at Level 2a and above. There are three "Get Spelling!" books and a Spelling Log Book. The programme takes the children from Level 2a to Level 5.

We are looking to build upon these phonic resources in 2013-2014. Match funding from the government up to £3000 has been recently extended to junior schools until October 2013 so we intend to take advantage of this opportunity to extend our resources and update our training in this area.