

Case Study

“All children progress – none get left behind.”

We talked to Kelly Woodcraft, Reading Leader, about *Read Write Inc. Phonics*. Long Close School is proud to be part of Cognita Schools, a global leader in independent education.

“The training was brilliant; if you follow the simple steps, your children learn to read. It's great to have a comprehensive programme to follow that guides staff and delivers excellent results.

“As a school we love that *Read Write Inc. Phonics* is for both teachers and teaching assistants. It's a whole-school approach, so groups can stay small and teaching is pitched perfectly at the 'Goldilocks Spot' – not too hard, not too easy.

“Development Days are vital. They are bespoke. The support and guidance we receive termly from our Consultant Trainer helps fine-tune our literacy teaching. Our Trainer observes and coaches us. Online practice videos help us prepare our coaching cycle. Regular Development Days help create an atmosphere of positive feedback and improving together as a team.

“I attended two Reading Leader Training days. I used the knowledge and practices to enhance our coaching cycle, which means all reading tutors are experts and part of a culture of professional development.

“All children progress – none get left behind. As a school, we pride ourselves on recognising the needs of every child and the attention to detail required in teaching *Read Write Inc. Phonics* means we know exactly where any specific gaps are. As Reading Leader I am responsible for identifying these gaps and setting up one-to-one tutoring.

“When we first started, the majority of year groups had children that needed one-to-one tutoring as not all children were making the expected progress. We are now at the point where only two staff are

School name: Long Close School

Location: Slough, Berkshire

Pupils on roll: 328

Age range: 2 - 16

needed for a handful of children for tutoring – all of whom are making strong progress.

“We have set up a good communication network with parents who are partners in their children's learning. Our virtual learning environment helps parents find out about *Read Write Inc.* and their children's learning journey. Parent Packs and videos help them to support their children at home from Nursery upwards. Parents help at home by reviewing sounds the children are learning that week or listening to children read linked stories. The best way they can help is to keep reading to their children.

“The children enjoy *Read Write Inc. Phonics*. They know what to expect each day – the behaviour management signals are embedded early and used throughout the school; the routines are familiar; and learning in groups with children at the same level allows them to feel confident. Once they can read their confidence grows across the curriculum.

“*Read Write Inc. Phonics* is definitely worth investing in. The speed at which children learn to read is crucial. Continuity, practice and teaching in small groups help children feel confident.

“Our Nursery have recently embraced the programme and even had children reading simple storybooks in the summer term.”

84% of children achieved at and above expected levels KS1 reading levels (national average 76%).

