

Phonics Teaching

Children start Phonics in Nursery, they begin at Phase 1 where there is a big emphasis on speaking and listening skills. This lays the foundation for all Phonics work before any sounds are taught. Phase 1 is split into seven aspects, the final aspect focussing on oral segmenting and blending.

Children then proceed to Phase 2 where the first initial sounds are taught. Some begin this in Nursery, if they are ready, if not this is started in Reception where they begin with whole class teaching of Phase 2. Once Phase 2 has been covered and following on from ongoing assessments, children are then split into groups. These groups are based on where the children are and as many adults are used as possible to have small teaching groups. This enables children to get the support that they need/ be pushed on. The groups are reviewed regularly and children/ staff who teach are moved around if needed.

Children in Reception are reading the Jelly and Beans books. This is a phonetically decodable reading scheme. When they are ready they are given a book to take home/ be listened to regularly at home.

In Reception children also start the rainbow reader challenge. This challenge breaks down the first 75 key/ tricky words down into 10 coloured sets. Children learn to read the words and recognise them by sight. After a set is completed they move onto the next coloured set. Once the children are able to read all 10 sets (75 key/ tricky words) they are a rainbow reader! The rainbow reader challenge has really helped the children with their reading books and has helped to develop fluency.

When children become a rainbow reader they move on to become a rainbow writer by practising to write the 75 key/ tricky words.

In KS1 the children are assessed as they come in to see where they are in their Phonics journey. They are then placed into a group appropriate to them. We have groups from Phase 2 to Phase 6. These are regularly reviewed and children are moved when needed. All adults in KS1 are used to have a Phonics groups to ensure that groups are small and children are in a group appropriate to them.

Alongside regular ongoing assessment children are formally assessed using the Phonics Screening Check to see whether they are on track to pass at the end of Year 1 or what further support they need. The check is carried out three times across the year. Interventions are put into place for those children who may need additional support.

Children in KS1 use Songbirds/ Big Cat Phonics books for their home reading scheme. These books are all phonetically decodable and tie in with the Phonics teaching from school. Children are moved onto the next stage/ colour book band when they are 90% fluent.

The school follows the LCP planning for the teaching of Phonics. This coincides with the Letters and Sounds document. Phonics lessons are fast paced and follow the Recap, Teach, Practise and Apply format. Other resources such as Phonics Play for interactive games, Youtube videos to teach new sounds are used such as Mr Thorne does Phonics, Geraldine the Giraffe and Alphablocks. Jolly Phonics actions are taught to help children remember new sounds. The school also has TTS Phonics boxes from Phase 2 - 6. These boxes/ kits are filled with games to play/ apply Phonics being learnt. Children in Year 2 also use Spelling Shed, this is an online programme/ game that helps to teach and apply spelling rules.