

The Teaching of Reading

Reading is an essential life skill and as a result we place strong emphasis on children becoming confident, strong readers who enjoy reading for purpose and pleasure.

In our Reception classes, Year 1 and year 2, phonics is used as a tool for helping children to become competent readers early in their school life.

In Reception children learn key skills such as how to handle books and that print carries meaning. They explore a range of books including fiction and non-fiction and learn to explore their structure. Children regularly read aloud to adults and in turn listen to adult read to them.

In KS1 and KS2 children receive Guided Reading lessons. These lessons focus on a range of skills including structure and organisation of texts, comprehension, inference and deduction using a range of fiction and non-fiction text types. Each child receives focused reads with their teacher based around developing a specific reading skill.

The Teaching of Phonics

What is phonics?

Phonics is a systematic way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. Whilst there are only 26 letters in the alphabet, spoken English uses about 42 sounds (phonemes). These phonemes are represented by a letter or group of letters (graphemes). The teaching of phonics begins by teaching children the letter sounds in isolation and then building up to blending the sounds together to read whole words. In turn children are then able to use their phonic skills to segment words to support with spelling.

How is phonics taught at our school?

Our approach to teaching phonics is through using 'Letters and Sounds' which breaks the teaching of phonics down into six phases which are taught throughout the EYFS and Key Stage One.

Every child in Reception and Key Stage One receives daily focused phonics sessions. We aim for our lessons to be fast paced, engaging and fun. We expect children to use the skills they have acquired through phonics teaching in all reading, writing and spelling activities, therefore we ensure that phonics is embedded in all areas of our curriculum.

Our daily phonics lessons also include the teaching of 'Tricky words'. These are words that cannot be read phonetically e.g. should

The Year One phonics screening

The phonics screening check is a short, simple assessment to make sure that all pupils have learned phonic decoding to an appropriate standard by the age of 6. The check comprises a list of 40 words and non-words which the child will read one-to-one with a teacher