

Phonics in EYFS

Intent

- To set the foundations for early reading, by developing children's phonics knowledge, enabling pupils to decode words and become successful, life-long readers.

We use Read Write Inc Phonics during our phonic sessions. Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to:

- * Recognise the sounds that individual letters make
- * Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make-such as 'sh' or 'oo'
- * Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to 'decode' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read. Careful listening is encouraged to enable the children to hear segmented sounds through 'Fred Talk' and be able to blend these sounds together to say the word. The children are taught to read words by blending, which means pushing all the sounds together to make a word. They are also taught to spell words by segmenting, which means sounding out words (Pinching the sounds onto their 'Fred Fingers') and writing down the sounds they can hear. Children in Reception begin their reading journey learning the initial sounds, then blending these sounds to read words. Children begin reading words from the Word Time 1 list. These are also known as 'Green Words'. As their confidence with recognising and matching phonemes/graphemes and segmenting and blending grows, they progress through Word Time 1-7 and then begin to read words in Ditties. We teach the children to say the sound for the letter and the letter name and to read 'Red' 'Tricky' words by using activities such as flashcards, games and songs.

Phonics sessions are usually structured as follows: recapping of previously learned sounds, introduction of new sound and then segmenting, blending and applying their understanding. Sessions are interactive; all students participate and demonstrate what they have learned. This can be by using the RML cards, writing on whiteboards, playing short phonics games and reading aloud. These sessions can be whole class or in groups led by the class teacher or the teaching assistants. Phonics skills can then be practised and embedded through games and activities in the continuous provision in both the indoor and outdoor learning environments.

Aims

- To learn a key set of phonic skills, including grapheme recognition, phoneme pronunciation, oral segmenting and blending and decoding, that can be transferred to reading and writing in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
- To learn set 1 and set 2 sounds of the Read Write Inc. synthetic phonics programme. Some children will go on to learn set 3 when ready.
- To apply phonic knowledge to read words and sentences accurately, reading back a sentence to 'hold' it. Children will demonstrate understanding about what they have read.
- Children can read and write some irregular common words, which cannot be segmented referred to as 'red' words.
- To write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.