

Phonics Intent, Implementation & Impact

Intent –

The aim of the phonics curriculum is to teach children to read quickly and skillfully and provide them with reading and writing skills to access other curriculum areas. The systematic teaching of phonics has a high priority throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage One and we are dedicated to enabling our pupils to become lifelong readers. We acknowledge that children need to be taught the key skills in segmenting and blending to be equipped with the knowledge to be able to complete the phonics check at the end of Year One. We also value and encourage the pupils to read for enjoyment and recognise that this starts with the foundations of acquiring letter sounds, segmenting and blending skills.

Implementation –

Reading and phonics are prioritised to allow pupils to access the full curriculum. In order to build secure blending and segmenting skills, children must be fully immersed in a strong foundation of early phonics in their early years (Nursery and Reception) and experience an effectively taught synthetic phonics curriculum in Reception and Key Stage One. Phonics is taught daily and we follow a rigorous and sequential approach that develops pupils' fluency, confidence and enjoyment in reading and writing. We use Read Write Inc. resources to help support our children as they learn to hear, say, read and write sounds and words, captions and sentences. During these sessions' children practice speed sounds, oral blending and segmenting. Phonics lessons are fast-paced and repetitive in order to introduce, recall and embed learning. At all stages, phonics attainment is assessed, and gaps are addressed quickly and effectively for all pupils with interventions are planned for those children who are working below expected levels. Pupils have regular reading sessions with an adult to ensure pupils are regularly practicing and applying their phonics knowledge. Children are matched with phonetically decodable reading books which match their current phonics ability and they can choose a library book to take home to develop their enjoyment of books.

Impact –

There is a strong focus on ensuring that younger children gain phonics knowledge and the language comprehension necessary to read, as well as the skills to communicate, giving them the foundations for future learning. Through the teaching of systematic phonics, our aim is for children to become fluent readers by the end of Key Stage One. This way, children can focus on developing their fluency and comprehension as they move through the school. Attainment in reading is measured using the statutory assessments at the end of Reception, Key Stage One and Two. These results are measured against the reading attainment of children nationally. Attainment in phonics is measured by the Phonics Screening Test at the end of Year 1. However, we firmly believe that reading is the key to all learning and so the impact of our phonics curriculum goes beyond the results of the statutory assessment.