



A GUIDE TO OUR READING SCHEMES AND HOW WE TEACH PHONICS IN KS1.

Our children in Reception and Key stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) follow the synthetic phonics approach, using the 'Letters and Sounds' programme. This is an approach to teaching phonics in which individual letters and sounds are blended to form groups of letters and sounds, and these groups are then blended to form complete words. Children in Reception also use 'Jolly Phonics' to go with sounds.

'Letters and Sounds' is divided into six phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of the previous learning. Children have time to practise and rapidly expand their ability to read and spell words. They are also taught to read and spell "tricky words" and words with spellings that are unusual or that the children have not yet been taught. These include the words 'to', 'was', 'said', and 'the'.

Our daily phonics sessions in Reception are fun, involving listening, speaking and games. The emphasis is on children's active participation. They learn to use their phonics knowledge for reading and writing activities and in their independent play. We plan activities that help the children to listen attentively to sounds around them, such as the sounds of their toys and to sounds in spoken language. We teach a wide range of nursery rhymes and songs and read a wide variety of books with the children. This increases their vocabulary and helps them talk confidently about books. The children learn to identify rhyme and alliteration and as they progress they begin to identify more complex spellings.

We use a combination of reading schemes which include:

Oxford Reading Tree

Story World

Treetops

Rigby Star

These schemes offer a variety of fiction and non-fiction books to develop the children's reading range. Children learn to read at different rates. Once they have finished the reading scheme we encourage them to become 'free readers' and choose their own books, under supervision from the class teacher.