



Phonics at Orchard Park

We start by teaching phonics in the Foundation Stage, where children learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We apply a synthetic phonics approach to phonics teaching, so as to provide a brisk, rigorous and enjoyable approach to the learning and teaching of the 44 phonemes.

In the Foundation Stage children are predominantly taught through the 'Letters and Sounds: Principles and Practice of High Quality Phonics' (DCSF), supported by: the Jolly Phonics programmes; 'Sounds and Letters' programme designed; rhymes, songs, poems, stories, games and participation in rhyming and rhythmic activities. The main focus is to link the sounds to the letters of the alphabet and graphemes. Children are taught to use their phonic knowledge to blend and segment words for reading and writing. They are also taught that some words are not phonetically correct and are therefore learnt as 'tricky' words.

Once children can blend sounds together to read words, they practise reading books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. They start to believe they can read and this does wonders for their confidence.

In Year 1, children continue to develop phonic knowledge through the DCSF 'Letters and Sounds' programme. In Year 2 discreet phonic sessions continue. An emphasis is placed on phonic knowledge during reading. More able children begin to learn spelling rules, and children who are at a lower phase of their phonics learning have additional intervention targeting the key areas of 'Letters and Sounds'.

In Key Stage 2, phonics is revisited and revised to assist with blending and segmenting when reading and to support knowledge of spelling rules when writing. This can take place as part of a Literacy session, or as a separate activity. Interventions still continue if necessary.

Phonics Screening Check

At the end of Year 1, children take part in the Phonics Screening Check, a statutory assessment for all Year 1 pupils. The check is made up of 40 words;



half of these words are real words and half are non words. Non words (nonsense words) are a collection of letters that follow phonics rules taught in Reception and Year 1. This allows a child's phonics knowledge to be assessed. The check is completed with the child's teacher on a one to one basis. At the end of the phonics check you will be told if your child has met the national standard or is working towards this standard. If a child's score falls below the standard, they will be given extra phonics help and can re-take the Phonics screening check in Year 2.