



PHONICS TEACHING AT WARDEN HILL INFANT SCHOOL

Warden Hill Infant School has a multi-ethnic school population in which 27 home languages are spoken. It welcomes this cosmopolitan mix. It is always believed that although results are very good pupils can achieve even more.

The provision for children's reading is meticulously organised, from when children start in the Reception at Warden Hill Infant School to their departure as seven year olds who have an enjoyment of reading. The Reception staff encourage careful listening to sounds and words in a language-rich environment, with specific phonics work every day. Children use a wide range of resources and books from Oxford Reading Tree and a variety of other books to stimulate interest in reading and writing.

Progress is carefully assessed and recorded and there are daily opportunities for reading, ready access to books, and support for parents, including for those whose circumstances make them hard to reach. Ongoing phonic assessment ensures that the class teacher provides early intervention if it is needed. Termly assessments based on national expectations also inform progress and attainment.

Systematic Phonics Teaching uses Letters and Sounds, Jolly Phonics and School based planning to deliver an engaging and very effective phonics curriculum. This is embedded in a 20-minute phonics session for the Reception and Key Stage 1 classes every morning. The sessions are rigorously structured and taught in a very engaging way, taking the children through a sequence of phases of phonic development. Their reading is consolidated by the books and activities used in the rest of the curriculum. Children are encouraged to choose banded reading resources and books at an appropriate level, mainly from the Oxford Reading Tree scheme with other reading schemes to supplement them. We use Rigby Star guided reading books.

'Letters and Sounds' is split into 6 phases. These are expected to be taught during the following years:

Phase 2, 3, 4 – Reception

Phase 4, 5 – Year 1

Phase 5, 6 – Year 2

At each phase children are taught to recognise individual sounds, pairs and clusters of letters. In phonic sessions children are taught to recognise letters, understand the sound they make and then blend them together to create words. Some words, which cannot be phonetically sounded out, are taught at each phase. These are 'tricky words' and are taught through sight recognition.

Phonics Information for Parents

For more information on 'Letters and Sounds' and the phonics phases please click on the links below:

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/what-is-letters-and-sounds.html>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J2Ddf_0Om8 - help with pronunciation

In 2012 a statutory check was introduced in Year 1. The check assesses phonics knowledge learnt in Reception (phase 3) and in Year 1 (phase 4,5). It was developed to help identify the children who need extra help with decoding and blending before they begin Year 2.

Phonics at Home

There are many great websites and apps to help support phonics learning at home. Here are some of our favourites used in school:

www.phonicsplay.co.uk – Buried Treasure, Dragons Den, Obb and Bob

www.ictgames.co.uk

Twinkl app

Phase 2 Sound Mat

a 	b 	c 	ck 	d 	e 	f 	ff 
g 	h 	i 	k 	l 	ll 	m 	n 
o 	p 	r 	s 	ss 	t 	u 	

Phase 3 Sound Mat

ai 	air 	ar 	ch 	ear 	ee 	er 	igh 
j 	ng 	oa 	oi 	oo 	oo 	or 	ow 
qu 	sh 	th 	ur 	ure 	v 	w 	x 
y 	z 	zz 					

Phase 5 Sound Mat

ay 	ou 	ie 	ea 	oy 	ir 	ue 	ue 
aw 	wh 	ph 	ew 	ew 	oe 	au 	ey 
a-e 	e-e 	i-e 	o-e 	u-e 	u-e 		

Phonics Vocabulary

Phoneme - The smallest unit of sound. There are approximately 44 phonemes in English (it depends on different accents). Phonemes can be put together to make words.

Grapheme - A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. p, 2 letters e.g. sh, 3 letters e.g. tch or 4 letters e.g. ough.

GPC - This is short for Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme to a grapheme and vice versa.

Digraph - A grapheme containing two letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

Trigraph - A grapheme containing three letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

Blending- This involves looking at a written word, looking at each grapheme and using knowledge of GPCs to work out which phoneme each grapheme represents and then merging these phonemes together to make a word.

Segmenting - This involves hearing a word, splitting it up into the phonemes (sound talk/sounding out) that make it, using knowledge of GPCs to work out which graphemes represent those phonemes and then writing those graphemes down in the right order.