

Reading in Early Years

Phonics

Here at Herrick Primary School we use the Letters and Sounds phonics resource. Letters and Sounds was published by the Department for Education and Skills and aims to develop children's speaking and listening skills and prepare them for learning to read.

Within the nursery we teach Phase One of the six phases which Letters and Sounds is divided into. Phase 1 lays the ground work for phonic work through encouraging children to become attuned to the sounds around them, so they are ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.

Phase 1 is divided into seven aspects, including:

- environmental sounds
- Instrumental sounds
- body sounds
- rhythm and rhyme
- alliteration, voice sounds
- oral blending and segmenting

We work through these aspects ensuring the children are secure and ready to move on. Within our teaching, we use a variety of fun and active activities, which include animal noises, music and movement, nursery rhymes and much more.

In Reception, we teach phonics using the Read, Write, Inc. sounds cards. We also teach the children how to read the tricky words from Letters and Sounds - phase 2 to 4.

Phonics is taught in small groups, three times a week in nursery and daily in reception and is supported throughout continuous provision during day-to-day activities and adult interaction within the classroom.

Reading

Reading is essential to support children within several areas of learning throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework. Phonics is only one aspect where reading is supported. Letters and words are displayed and utilised throughout the classroom and used in context to support the children's understanding. Books are available both indoors and outdoors for the children to access independently.

In Nursery, the children are encouraged to vote for their Friday story each week. We read a story at the end of each day which is related to our classroom theme. Through using constructive questioning and discussion and through reading the same story over a few days, the children are able to develop a deeper understanding of how a story works. The children are supported in story retelling, understanding characters and their feelings, learning new vocabulary in context, and to use their developed understanding to form their own ideas for stories through role play and small word activities.

In Reception, in addition to Phonics, we also teach Talk for Writing. The Talk for Writing approach enables children to read and write independently for a variety of areas and purposes within different subjects. A key feature is that children learn the language structures needed to write through 'talking the text', as well as close reading. The Talk for Writing scheme enhances the children's language and the children's love of reading.

Every week the teacher will hold a 1:1 reading session with each child and support through guided reading.

Letters and Sounds decodable phonics books are used for both individual and guided reading.