

Phonics

At Stamford Park Primary School we aim for children to become fluent readers and writers by teaching phonics through Little Wandle Revised Letters and Sounds which is a systematic synthetic phonics scheme.

Our Phonics Curriculum:

- Begins in EYFS and ensures that children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through the school.
- Aims to ensure all children rapidly build phonological skills to become confident, and enthusiastic readers and writers.
- Enables children to be able to tackle any unfamiliar words as they read.
- Has a strong focus on language development because we know that speaking and listening are crucial skills for reading and writing in all subjects.
- Encourages children to read widely across a range of genres to develop an understanding of story structure, characters, and a growing vocabulary.
- Includes a range of reading opportunities to provide a balance between decoding, word recognition, prosody and comprehension.
- Provides opportunities to enthuse children and develop a desire to read for pleasure. Supports children in their use of independent strategies to self-monitor and correct their own reading, improving fluency.

Implementation

Children progress through each of the Phonic phases from Phase One to Phase Six, from Nursery to Year Two, which means our Phonics teaching and learning is progressive. Phonics is taught daily, and each lesson follows a clear sequence as recommended by the Little Wandle Phonics scheme. Targeted provision of Little Wandle Keep Up is provided to children who need extra support within Phonics.

Phonics is taught through:

Discrete phonics sessions

- Phonics is taught daily in Year 1 for 30 minutes a day and in EYFS they build from 10-minute lessons, with additional daily oral blending games, to the full-length lesson towards the end of the Autumn term.
- Each Friday, the week's teaching is reviewed to help the children to become fluent readers.
- Children in the EYFS are taught to read and spell words using Phase 2 and 3 GPCs and words with adjacent consonants (Phase 4) with fluency and accuracy.

- Children in Year 1 review Phases 3 and 4 and are taught to read and spell words using Phase 5 GPCs with fluency and accuracy.

Daily Keep-up lessons

- Half-termly assessments identify children who need additional practice and daily keep-up support.
- Keep up lessons are delivered by a trained adults in line with the structure of class teaching and use the same procedures, resources and mantras, but in smaller steps with more repetition so that every child secures their learning.
- We timetable phonics support for any child in Year 2 and above who is not fully fluent at reading or has not passed the Phonics screening check to ensure that children catch up to age-related expectations in Reading.

Reading

- Children read with an Educator in small groups at least three times using the Collins Big Cat fully decodable books during Reading Practice which are expertly aligned to the Little Wandle Revised Letters and Sounds phonics scheme.

(please see Reading specific intent, implementation and impact)

Impact

We follow the Little Wandle assessment framework to determine the children's next steps and identify gaps in learning; Keep Up targeted provision supports these children. Assessment for learning is also used daily within class to identify children needing support and the weekly Review lessons are used to assess gaps, address these immediately and secure fluency of GPCs, words and spellings. At the end of Year One all children take part in the National Phonics Screening Check. We acknowledge that the Phonics screening check is used to assess the children's phonetic skills alone and does not consider children as 'Readers'.

At Stamford Park Primary School, the quality teaching of Phonics results in children:

- Being able to master phonics to read and spell as they move through school
- Becoming confident readers and developing this a crucial life skill
- Seeing themselves as readers for both pleasure and purpose
- Developing resilience and perseverance