



Phonics at Freethorpe Community Primary and Nursery School

Phonics sessions are taught daily at Freethorpe Primary School from Year R to Year 2, following the Letters and Sounds scheme of work.

The Letters and Sounds scheme is grouped into phases and pupils progress from phase 1 to phase 6, with pupils being taught in differentiated ability groups. These phases ensure that children progress from talking and exploring about sounds, through to understanding what graphemes and phonemes are. Pupils learn about GPCs (grapheme-phoneme correspondences), consonant digraphs and vowel digraphs and trigraphs. Children develop knowledge of CVC's and how to blend and segment words, including those with adjacent consonants.

Within phase 5, pupils progress to learning about split digraphs and alternative pronunciations of graphemes. Pupils also develop their knowledge that phonemes can have different spellings and phase 6 concentrates on developing spelling rules and continuing to enhance reading strategies. The reading and spelling of high frequency words are also taught throughout the academic year, as part of phonic development, along with how to spell tricky words which may not fit conventional spelling rules.

Phonics is taught through a variety of strategies, including high quality modelling of sounding out, decoding, segmenting and blending strategies. Interactive resources and games are used and children are given the opportunity to rehearse sounds verbally and through written work. A variety of texts are used to demonstrate how phonic knowledge can help with reading unknown words and texts.

Phonics sessions are structured to build on previous learning and introduce new phonics skills and subject knowledge. Sessions often follow the model of revisit/review, teach, practise, apply. Sessions are planned to include opportunities for development of speaking and listening skills, reading and writing.

Each June, all children in Year 1 undertake a National Phonics Screening Check. This check consists of 40 words (20 real words and pseudo words) which children will be asked to read. The focus of this check is to see if pupils can decode a range of words which they have not seen before.

Percentage of children who passed the Phonics Screening Check at Freethorpe Primary School. In the academic year:

2015 86%

2016 100%

2017 85%