

Statement On Reading And Phonics

English

Language is at the heart of learning throughout the school curriculum. Years 1 and 2 have a daily English lesson. Reception year children are gradually introduced to all aspects of the curriculum as appropriate to their development.

Reading

Emphasis is placed on all children enjoying rich and pleasurable reading experiences by providing a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction Reading for Pleasure books in all the classroom areas. These have been carefully selected to include books from other cultures and from diverse social backgrounds. Children can read these in school and once a week they select one to take home to enjoy on their own or with an adult. Books for guided reading and home reading have recently been restocked with a huge range of fiction and non-fiction books. These are categorised according to the Letters and Sounds phases. Class teachers select a book for each child to take home each week. These are closely matched to the child's phonics ability and what is being taught in school that week. Parents are encouraged to give reading feedback on Seesaw. The library is well stocked with a range of books covering all curriculum areas. The reading of environmental print (labels, captions, instructions) is an integral part of the school day.

Writing

A developmental approach to writing is encouraged so that children gain confidence in putting their thoughts and ideas on to paper. Emphasis is placed on content and individual creativity. The correct spelling of high frequency words and Common Exception words from the National Curriculum is encouraged from an early stage. Children are encouraged to recognise and learn features of conventional spelling. Children are encouraged to write at home and share this with their teachers on Seesaw. We hold a writing week usually in March with many exciting events and stimulating activities.

Speaking and Listening skills are encouraged to express ideas and listen to the opinions of others. Drama and role-play are encouraged within the curriculum. Dramatic work performed by the children or outside visitors, helps to develop speaking and listening skills.

Phonics and Spelling

Phonics is all about sounds. There are 44 sounds in the English language, which are put together to form words. Some are represented by one letter, like 't', and some by two or more, like 'ck' in duck and 'air' in chair. Children are taught the sounds first, then how to match them to letters, and finally how to use the letter sounds for reading and spelling. Children are encouraged to blend the sounds to read words, based on the idea that children should sound out unknown words and not rely on their context.

The children are taught a daily phonics session using the Letters and Sounds progression sequence, enriched with games and other resources. . They are assessed towards the end of Year 1 in a Phonics screening check with results shared with parents.

When ready n Year 2, children move on to learning spelling rules set out in the National Curriculum, again using carefully selected resources, games and investigations. Phonics and spelling homework is sent home each week on Seesaw. This is always linked to learning in school.

We are aware that Letters and Sounds does not comprehensively cover all requirements and have clearly mapped those aspects outside of Letters and Sounds so we ensure they are fully compliant and covered.

We are undertaking a strategic review of Phonics in line with DFE guidance and our own monitoring is informing the Phonics provision. The school is considering moving to a new whole school scheme such as Little Wandle.