



Phonics Curriculum Statement

Intent:

At West Road Primary Academy School, the teaching and outcomes of phonics are of a high priority. From September 2021 we follow the Essential Letters and Sounds programme and are passionate about ensuring all children become confident and enthusiastic readers. Phonics and reading are essential tools to access the whole curriculum, to engage and make sense of knowledge and to explore, question and respond to the world. A strong phonics basis enables us to ensure children flourish as readers, and therefore develop socially, emotionally, intellectually and culturally.

Implementation:

Across school we follow the Essential Letters and Sounds programme, and work through Phase 1 to phase 6 using decodable books that match the child's phonic level to aid reading. Below is an outline of the implementation within each stage of school:

Nursery: Focus on Phase 1 and really consolidate elements such as rhyme and alliteration.

Reception: Phase 2 within Autumn 1 and Phase 3 within Autumn. Phase 3-4 in Spring term, Phase 4 in Summer 1 and an introduction to Phase 5 in Summer 2, in preparation for transition to KS1.

Year 1: Phase 5 throughout the year and then in the Summer term a review all of all phases. Phonics Screening Test to take place in Summer term.

Year 2: Phase 6 and spelling patterns. ELS interventions to take place for the children who did not pass Y1 Phonics Screening Test.

LKS2: Beyond Year 2, all pupils move through the spelling programme. In all year groups, children reading below age-related expectations receive targeted support. Additional phonics teaching is given following the taught patterns in Essential Letters and Sounds programme and supported by phonetically decodable reading books from the school reading scheme.

Intervention: There is targeted catch up for children who did not achieve expected standard at end of Year 1.

Impact

We believe that the impact of using our Phonics curriculum and progression through the phases will ensure that our children have a good grasp of phonological knowledge and understanding by the end of KS1. Attainment and progress in phonics is measured every half term via O-track in addition to the data provided by the Phonics Screening Test at the end of Year 1.

Staff have high expectations and regular CPD provides opportunities to understand the continuity and progression of skills across key stages and phases; skills to model, scaffold and question pupils in order to achieve a deeper level of understanding and vocabulary. Phonics delivery and impact is monitored and assessed regularly by members of the leadership team ensuring a consistent approach.