



Phonics

Phonics forms the building blocks of reading and writing and equips children with the skills needed to become independent readers and writers. In Phonics, children are taught the sounds and how to match them to letters and decode the words in order to read them. This is an essential skill for them to read unfamiliar words by themselves and begin to read independently.

At Kentmere we follow the Read Write Inc scheme to teach letter sounds, letter formation and blending.

Phonics in Nursery

Phonics session in Nursery will support the children's listening ability, focusing on phase 1 phonics and discriminating between sounds.

They are taught to:

- Discriminate and recognise everyday sounds, such as transport noises and animal sounds
- Recognise alliteration (where the initial sound is the same)
- Recognise rhyme and say the words that rhyme to continue the rhyming string.

Phonics in Reception

In Reception, the children are taught the sounds and their corresponding letters using the Read, Write Inc. phonics scheme. We have Fred, the RWI frog, to help us. He sits on our shoulder and helps us to sound out the words and blend them together in order to read them.

The children will learn to:

- Orally blend the words, putting the sounds together they can hear to create the word
- Blend the letters in words in order to read them. For example, c-a-t = cat
- Read simple sentences containing these words

Begin to recognise digraphs (two letters that make a sound, such as sh, ay, ee) and trigraphs (three letters than make the sound such as igh) and read words and sentences containing these.

As the children work their way through the program, they are then able to read longer and more complex sentences, talking with others about what they have read to demonstrate their understanding.

The program also teaches the children how to write the letters, and each letter has a rhyme to accompany it. The children are taught to segment the sounds they can hear in the words in order to write them, building up to writing short sentences.

Phonics in Year 1

The children continue their phonics journey into Year 1, focusing on the set 2 and 3 digraphs and trigraphs. They will continue to read the story books linked to the sounds with additional activities for spelling and grammar.

Assessment

Children are taught to recognise the sounds on their own, read them within words and within sentences. They are assessed each half term and placed into ability groups to ensure clear progression through the sounds. Any children needing additional support are identified early and phonics interventions are put in place.

At the end of Year 1, children complete the statutory phonics screening check, which is a simple test made up of 40 real and nonsense (pseudo) words and takes approximately 10 minutes. This assesses phonics skills and knowledge learned through Reception and Year 1. It is designed to give teachers and parents information on how your child is progressing in Phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill.

Phonics beyond Year 1

Children in Year 2 continue using the RWI program during the Autumn term, with additional activities for spelling and grammar. For those children needing additional support with phonics, interventions are put into place. Any children who did not pass the phonics screening check will continue their daily phonics lessons and retake the check at the end of Year 2. For those children needing further support for phonics in LKS2, the rigorous phonics programme continues from KS1. For children in UKS2, the Fresh Start phonics programme is delivered. In addition to this, children have access to a range of decodable books specifically targeted to their age group.