

Reading and Phonics

At Yewtree Primary School we follow the 'Read, Write Inc.' scheme for phonics. The children learn to read accurately and fluently with good comprehension. They learn to form each letter, spell correctly and compose their ideas. Throughout the programme, children learn the English alphabetic code: the 150+ graphemes (letters or groups of letters) which represent the 44 speech sounds. The sounds they learn are split into three sets (see below) and there are mnemonics to help children learn the letter-sound correspondences quickly. This knowledge is taught and consolidated every day. The children are also taught to read words that are not phonetically regular, called red words, and these are frequently practised.

Once the children can start blending (c-a-t = cat) they begin reading books which run alongside the scheme. The children are assessed and grouped according to their phonic knowledge. Each child reads books that match their phonic knowledge. Ongoing assessment means that groups are constantly adjusted to ensure the best progress for each child. Teachers model and explain the activity to children and use 'My turn Your turn' ensuring all children in the group are watching and joining in. There is also partner work involved where the children will work with their partner to practise what they have been taught or discuss new ideas. During this time the teacher listens and observes carefully to identify any misconceptions which can be addressed quickly. A soft toy frog, called Fred, supports teaching. He can only speak in sounds and this helps the children to develop their blending and segmenting skills.

In the Foundation Stage, phonics is taught for 20 minutes 4 times a week and Reception classes have guided reading sessions with different activities for different groups, these sessions allow the children time to apply their skills from phonics lessons. In Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) the children are taught phonics and reading in four 40 minute sessions throughout the week. There are also additional guided reading sessions so that class staff regularly hear the children in their class read too. Children who still need support with phonics in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) are taught in small groups. From Year 3 - 6 children have regular guided reading lessons which are set up in a range of ways depending on classroom organisation.

Children are expected to read at home every night. This is made up of a range of scheme books which have been matched to the child's level of reading (they should be a book that the child can read with 95+% accuracy). Children can also share their library book and read books from home to supplement what is sent home from school. As a school we actively encourage children to read regularly at home and classes have their own rewards for children who read daily.

Set 1 sounds:

m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h sh ck r j v y w th z
ch qu x ng nk

Set 2 sounds:

ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy

Set 3 sounds:

ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw are ur er ow ai oa ew ire
ear ure tious tion

I the you your said was
are of want what they to
he* me* we* she* be* no*
so* go* old* her*
do does all call tall small
many any one anyone some come
watch who where there here were
brother other mother father love above
two once buy worse walk talk
bought caught through thought whole wear
could would should great saw* why*
now* how* down* over*
my* by* son water school* ball
everyone their people

(* = red for while)