



Phonics Teaching at Springfield

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to: recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes; identify the sounds that combinations of letters make such as 'oo' and 'sh'; they are taught how to blend sounds together from left to right to make a word such as sh-o-p=shop. Children are then able to use this knowledge to decode new words that they hear or see. Children are also taught how to segment (break apart) words for spelling.

At Springfield, we use Twinkl Phonics which is a DFE recommended Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) Scheme sequential scheme. This scheme uses visual, auditory and kinaesthetic approaches through rhymes, songs and actions. The school adopts a consistent approach to teaching and learning in phonics across the whole school. All staff have been trained to follow the same approach. A teaching Handbook is available with video tutorials for teachers to dip into to refresh their learning. Teachers are skilled to adapt the scheme and lessons to devise bespoke lessons to best meet the needs of the children.

Phonics teaching starts in Nursery with Level 1 teaching where they are taught to 'tune in' to sounds in a practical way through activities and through environmental play and routines. Level 1 learning is continual and built upon through Level 2 where children begin to learn phonemes (sounds) graphemes (the visual representation of the sound) and how to blend words for reading and segment words for spelling.

The structure of our daily phonics teaching follows a 4 part lesson, where children: 1) revisit previous learning- this is a vital stage to allow children to 'over learn' and provide rapid recall of their prior learning. 2) Teach; where new phonemes or common exception words are taught. 3) Practice- where children practice reading and writing words containing the new sound 4) Apply section- where the children have the opportunity to apply their learning through reading or writing words and sentences. Class teachers and Teaching Assistants assess children each lesson in order to inform next steps in learning. Twinkl Phonics assessment materials are used to assess the learning within that Phonics level.

Children become confident in Level 2 learning and move onto Level 3 before the end of Reception. Level 4 and Level 5 equip children to learn the phonemes and types of words they may meet in the Statutory Phonics Screening test at the end of Year 1. Children new to the school or those who do not pass the Phonics screening test in Year 1, take the test again in Year 2.

At Springfield, we have a collection of phonetically decodable texts which complement our phonics teaching and an excellent way to enable children to apply their phonics learning. These texts are used during Guided reading sessions and are sent home for further practice. Due to the high mobility at Springfield, we have many children arriving into classes across the school, some of these pupils may have English as an additional language or have not been to school in the UK. The school plans small intervention groups in KS2 to enable children to access phonic teaching and accelerate their learning in this area. Teachers and school leaders carefully monitor and track the progress of children to support those children who are at risk of falling behind.