

Phonics at St Nicholas C.E Primary Academy

Within the love of God, at St Nicholas CE Primary Academy, we are passionate about ensuring all our children become confident and enthusiastic readers and writers. These fundamental skills not only open the door to the rest of an inspiring and challenging curriculum, but also have a huge impact on our children's self-esteem and future life chances. We treasure the importance of Phonics as it provides children with the building blocks needed to become successful readers, confident speakers and willing writers.

“Teach a child to read and keep that child reading, then we will change everything ... And I mean EVERYTHING!”
Jeanette Winterson

We have chosen to use the high-quality synthetic phonics programme called Read, Write, Inc. produced by Ruth Miskin. Through daily, systematic and consistent high-quality phonics teaching, children learn to segment words to support their spelling ability and blend sounds to read words. It helps children to learn the relationship between sounds and the written spelling patterns, or graphemes, which represent them. Using Read Write Inc., the children learn to read fluently allowing them to concentrate on comprehending what they read. We passionately believe that teaching children to read and write independently is one of the core ingredients of a primary school which ensures every child can flourish as a learner.

Our Aims and Purpose

- Awareness of reader's enjoyment
- Writing makes sense
- Good command of grammar and punctuation
- Accurate spelling
- Adventurous and precise vocabulary choices
- Writing for purpose
- Fluent writers with clear and legible handwriting



How do we do it?

- Phonics is taught across EYFS and KS1. Children have daily phonics lessons in small, targeted groups where they participate in speaking, listening, spelling, reading and writing activities that are matched to their needs and which they enjoy.
- Each session is broken up into different parts including the teaching of a new sound, reading words with the new sound, revision of previous sounds taught and also writing words. Phonics is embedded across the curriculum and the children are encouraged to use phonics to support them in a range of topic work.
- From early in EYFS, children are taught how to recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes, identify the sounds that different combinations of letters (special friends) make – such as 'sh' or 'ng' and then blend these sounds together, from left to right to make a word. Children use this knowledge to decode new words they see or hear.
- Children learn Set 1 and Set 2 sounds and it is only when they are completely fluent and confident in these that they progress to learn Set 3 sounds. This enables them to read and write a range of words.
- Children learn different representations of a sound ('graphemes'), for example ay, a-e, ai. This enables children to become more confident with not only their reading but also spelling and develops skills which are transferrable to their Literacy.
- In Year 1, there is a greater emphasis on the reading of the sounds, whereas in year 2 this progresses by using the graphemes more in spelling.



The fundamentals

- A belief that every child *can* and *will* become a competent reader and writer.
- Fidelity to the RWI programme.
- A focus on teaching of sounds.
- Explicit teaching of vocabulary.
- Targeted interventions.
- Tailored groupings.
- 6 weekly assessments.
- Every adult accessing high-quality, bespoke training pathways.



Planning

The RWI phonics programme provides planning for every lesson at all levels of the scheme. All adults in school are fully trained in delivering RWI phonics and understand the need to show fidelity towards the scheme.

Cross-Curricular Opportunities

EVERYTHING!

