

At Windmill Hill, we are passionate about phonics and its importance in providing our children with a gateway into the world of learning to read and write competently. We aim to teach all our children to recognise the sounds of the alphabet and learn to blend these sounds together to read and write words.

We have developed a bespoke programme to support the systematic teaching of phonics, which provides a cohesive, whole school approach. Our programme meets the high expectations of the National Curriculum and provides a multi-sensory approach of mnemonics, actions and rhymes to engage all learners.

Our programme systematically builds upon skills and knowledge of previous learning and uses effective assessment to accelerate every child's progress

Phonics teaching is led by an experienced subject leader and is overseen by the KS1 Assistant Head.

We have developed and mapped out the progression of phonics across Early Years and Key Stage 1 to ensure the effectiveness of the teaching and learning.

Every phonics lesson follows an identical 4-part structure to provide familiarity and consistency to our teaching. Each 25-minute session will be fast-paced, rigorous and challenging and involve:

- Revise and Rehearse
- Learn
- Apply: Reading Rehearsal and Writing Rehearsal
- Challenge

Children will have 4 structured phonics lessons each week (Mon-Thurs). The final session on a Friday will be "Fun Phonics" where the children will take part in a carousel of phonics based activities and have the opportunity to further apply their knowledge of the phonemes and tricky words taught during that week.

Our progressive programme is split into 5 phases:

Phase One

This phase concentrates on developing the children's listening and attention skills and lays the foundation for phonic work by encouraging children to become attuned to the sounds around them. It is divided into 7 aspects (General Sound Discrimination: Environmental, General Sound Discrimination: Instrumental, General Sound Discrimination: Body Percussion, Rhythm and Rhyme, Alliteration, Voice Sounds and Oral Blending and Segmenting).

Phase Two (23 graphemes and 6 tricky words)

This phase introduces the most commonly used letters and their associated sounds one at a time. Children will be encouraged to use these sounds to begin blending and segmenting. Six tricky words are also introduced at this phase to support reading.

Phase Three (28 graphemes and 12 tricky words)

This phase encompasses 6 letters, 19 digraphs and 3 trigraphs. Children will continue to practise blending and segmenting. Twelve tricky words are also introduced at this phase to further develop reading and children will learn to spell those tricky words learnt in Phase Two.

Phase Four (0 graphemes and 14 tricky words)

This phase aims to consolidate children's knowledge and introduces children to adjacent consonants, expanding their reading and spelling ability beyond CVC words. Children will learn to read polysyllabic words. Fourteen tricky words are also introduced at this phase to further develop reading and children will learn to spell those tricky words learnt in Phase Three.

Phase Five A (19 graphemes and 9 tricky words)

This phase encompasses alternative graphemes for known phonemes. Nine tricky words are also introduced at this phase to further develop reading and children will learn to spell those tricky words learnt in Phase Four.

Phase 5 B (14 graphemes and 0 tricky words)

This phase encompasses further alternative graphemes for known phonemes and alternative pronunciations for graphemes