



Phonics and Reading at Templewood School

In Key Stage 1 we follow the Letters and Sounds programme to give children secure decoding skills to support learning. It must always be remembered that phonics is the step up to word recognition. Automatic reading of all words – decodable and tricky – is the ultimate goal.

In the early stages of developing phonic awareness there is a strong emphasis on speaking and listening exercises to support their learning. Children experience a wealth of listening activities, including songs, stories and rhymes. They learn to distinguish between speech sounds and begin to blend and segment words orally and identify spoken words that rhyme.

Children then move on from oral blending and segmentation to blending and segmenting with letters which enables them to decode and read simple words. This is a carefully staged programme of learning moving children through the skills they will need to support their learning.

As they secure the necessary skills they will be able to move from learning to read to reading to learn takes place as children read for information and for pleasure.

To become successful readers, children must understand what they read. They need to learn a range of comprehension strategies and should be encouraged to reflect upon their own understanding and learning. Such an approach, which starts at the earliest stages, gathers momentum as children develop their fluency. Children need to be taught to go beyond literal interpretation and recall, to explore the greater complexities of texts through inference and deduction. Over time they need to develop self-regulated comprehension strategies:

- activating prior knowledge;
- clarifying meanings – with a focus on vocabulary work;
- generating questions, interrogating the text; constructing mental images during reading;
- summarising.

It must always be remembered that throughout their learning children should continue to have opportunities to listen to experienced readers reading aloud to help them develop a love of reading.