

Phonics at Holy Trinity

At Holy Trinity children are taught daily discreet phonics following a systematic programme tailored to individual needs. We provide stimulating and interactive activities to support the children as they master the skills needed for each phase.

Early Years:

During the children's nursery year they experience a range of activities within phase 1 of 'Letters and Sounds' which begin with developing their ability to distinguish between different sounds.

The teaching of phonics within our nursery is through fun, stimulating and interactive activities with a key focus on speaking and listening skills.

By the end of the nursery year most children are ready to begin phase 2 with the introduction of linking sounds to the correct letter.

Children begin phase 2 at the beginning of reception with additional phase 1 activities to support individual learning. They are taught in small ability groups, with independent and guided reading closely linked to individual needs. Letter and sound books are given as an extension for learning at home.

The application of phonic skills runs through all areas within our continuous provision, both indoors and outdoors.

Key Stage 1:

At Key Stage 1, children have a 20 minute discrete phonics lesson every day. Class teachers are responsible for the delivery and assessment of phonics and most children are taught phonics by their class teacher. Those with additional needs are taught by TA3 staff allowing high achievers to make accelerated progress, and those with additional needs to gain further support at the appropriate level.

During Year 1 and Year 2 new graphemes are taught in sound families, for example, all graphemes for the 'ai' sound are taught together - *ai/ay/ey/a/a_e*. As well as helping with segmenting for reading, this also allows children to explore and compare the positioning of each grapheme in a word as an aid to spelling. The 'tricky words' outlined in Letters and Sounds are taught alongside the sound families.

Key Stage 2:

At Key Stage 2 we aim for children to become fluent readers and increasingly accurate spellers. In Year 3 children continue to have a 20 minute discretely taught phonics / spelling lesson each day. Teaching focuses on spelling rules, patterns and exceptions to the rules. In Years 4, 5 and 6 children continue to explore and investigate spelling rules through learning in Literacy. Children identified as having gaps in their phonic knowledge continue to receive tailored discrete phonics teaching as an additional intervention alongside the age related expectation for the year group.

Assessment, recording and monitoring:

Children's progress in developing and applying their phonic knowledge is assessed and monitored each term.

Children in Year 1 nationally are required to take a Phonics Screening Check during the summer term. This assessment confirms whether the child has learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. If a child does not reach the appropriate standard then additional support will be put in place in order for the child to make accelerated progress with their reading and writing. Children who do not pass the Phonics Screening Check are required to retake it in the summer term of Year 2.

How can you help your child with phonics at home?

There are several websites that are used regularly at school in the teaching of phonics and that can be accessed at home for free. These are:

www.ictgames.com

www.phonicsplay.com