

# Phonics Statement

Phonics is taught in a highly structured programme of daily lessons across The EYFS, KS1 and KS2 in groups differentiated according to children's phonic awareness and development. At Atherton St George's CE Primary, we follow The Letters and Sound programme. This is a synthetic approach to the teaching of phonics. Phonics is taught daily in a twenty-minute slot and is complimented in English lessons. Phonics sessions are made up of 4 components; Revisit and Review, Teach, Practise and Apply.

## Phases of the Phonics Programme

Children in Little Dragon's Nursery begin with Phase 1 which provides a range of listening activities through play, to develop their listening skills. Many skills are covered such as rhyme, alliteration and initial sounds.

As the children move into Reception, they consolidate their learning from Phase 1 and progress onto Phase 2. In Phase 2 children are introduced to grapheme-sound correspondence. This is the process of reading simple words through the process of segmenting and blending. When the children move forward to Phase 3, they learn the alphabet and how letters can be represented by a letter name and sound. Phase 3 teaches one representation for each of the 44 phonemes.

In Year 1, children progress onto Phase 5, learning about split digraphs, alternative pronunciations of the same grapheme, and alternative representations of the same phoneme. Phase 6 concentrates on developing spelling rules and enhance reading strategies.

Throughout school, phonics is taught in a variety of ways, including high quality modelling of sounding out, decoding, segmenting and blending strategies.

Interactive resources and games are used and children are given the opportunity to rehearse sounds verbally and record them in written work.

## Phonics Assessment

Each June, all children in Year 1 undertake a National Phonics Screening Check. This check consists of 40 words (20 real words and 20 pseudo words) which all children will be asked to read. In the academic year 2015-2016, 73% of children passed the Phonics Screening Check at Atherton St George's CE Primary School.

Children's progress is continually monitored and reviewed and the English Lead holds termly Phonics Progress Meetings to monitor children's progress and attainment. The purpose of these meetings is to establish the number of children on track and not on track and provide support and intervention where needed.