



Chapel Lane, Harseahead, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST7 4JL

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Reading and Phonics

Reading and Phonics at Thursfield Primary School

At Thursfield Primary School, synthetic phonics is taught as the main approach to early reading. Regular phonics sessions are taught from Reception through to Year 2, for some children the teaching of phonics continues in Key Stage 2 if this is necessary.

These sessions follow the government published programme of 'Letters and Sounds'.

A session is a daily 20-minute structured lesson, where the children have the opportunity to practice reading and writing. It is a fun session with lots of speaking and listening and working with a partner.

'Letters and Sounds' is split into 6 phases. These are expected to be taught during the following years, however this again may vary according to the needs of the children.

Phase 1	Nursery
Phase 2, 3, 4	Reception
Phase 4, 5, 6	Year 1
Phase 5, 6	Year 2

At each phase children are taught to recognise individual sounds, pairs and clusters of letters. In phonic sessions children are taught to recognise letters, understand the sound they make and then blend them together to create words. Some words, which cannot be phonetically sounded out, are taught at each phase. These are 'tricky words' and are taught through sight recognition.

For more information on 'Letters and Sounds' and the phonics phases please click on the links below:

[Sound Mat](#)

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/what-is-letters-and-sounds.html>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J2Ddf_0Om8 - help with pronunciation

In 2012 a statutory check was introduced in Year 1. The check assesses phonics knowledge learnt in Reception (phase 3) and in Year 1 (phase 4,5). It was developed to help identify the children who need extra help with decoding and blending before they begin Year 2. *We are very proud of our recent phonic results at Thursfield as our results were well above the national averages, this reflects the importance that we place on this area of the curriculum.*



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Phonics at Home

There are many great websites and apps to help support phonics learning at home. Here are some of our favourites used in school:

www.phonicsplay.co.uk – Buried Treasure, Dragons Den, Obb and Bob

www.ictgames.co.uk

Phonics Vocabulary to help you at home:

Phoneme - The smallest unit of sound. There are approximately 44 phonemes in English (it depends on different accents). Phonemes can be put together to make words.

Grapheme - A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. p, 2 letters e.g. sh, 3 letters e.g. tch or 4 letters e.g. ough.

GPC - This is short for Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme to a grapheme and vice versa.

Digraph - A grapheme containing two letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

Trigraph - A grapheme containing three letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

Blending- This involves looking at a written word, looking at each grapheme and using knowledge of GPCs to work out which phoneme each grapheme represents and then merging these phonemes together to make a word.

Segmenting - This involves hearing a word, splitting it up into the phonemes (sound talk/sounding out) that make it, using knowledge of GPCs to work out which graphemes represent those phonemes and then writing those graphemes down in the right order.

Reading at Thursfield

Every child deserves success right from the start. We know that sooner children learn to read, the greater their success is at school. This is why we put reading at the heart of what we do, in addition we want our children to have a real love of reading, a love which will stay with them forever!

Our core reading scheme is the Oxford Reading Tree, however this is supplemented with a range of schemes which will support your child in the process of learning to read. Once we are happy that your child has reached a certain level within the scheme they become 'free readers' which means that they move onto short stories and short fiction books, this can be at any point in your child's learning journey, it all depends on the individual child.



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All of our children listen to stories as either part of their lessons or at the end of the day during story-time. Other types of reading consists of a mixture of individual reading (when reading class texts), and shared reading (given opportunity to share ideas in a small group).

From Year 1 onwards children read a class reader daily and usually this class reader is linked to the topic for that term, some classes higher up in the school will read up to three books per term others less. All children will have an individual reading book, which they will take home to read, they will also be listened to regularly at school.

When working with the text during shared reading sessions, teachers will:

- Introduce key ideas and concepts from the text
- Revisit the text to check that pupils have made sense of the text overall
- Generate responses to the text using a combination of less-demanding and higher-order questions

Structure and differentiation

This might involve the children undertaking different tasks, such as:

- Reading with the teacher
- Reading with a teaching assistant
- Reading independently
- Paired reading
- Reading as a class or group
- A follow-up activity, which could involve working in their Reading Journals

Children also have access to their classroom library and they are encouraged read for pleasure.

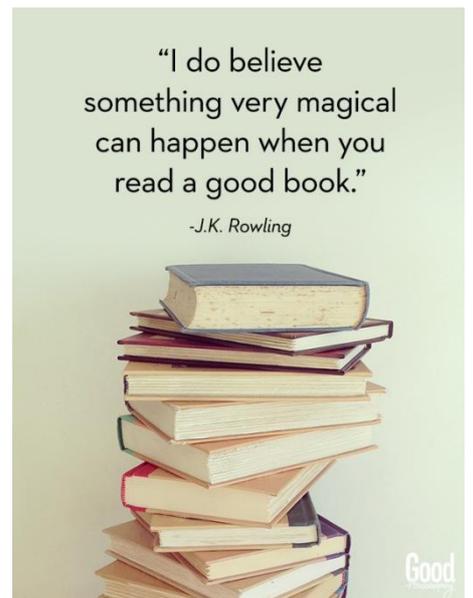
Please read with your child at home and encourage them to read for pleasure.

Children take home spellings each week to learn to reinforce phonics covered in class, or they are spellings that are connected to the National Curriculum.

Spelling tests take place on a weekly basis, again we ask you to support your child with this.

"I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book."

-J.K. Rowling



Good
Reading