

Early Years

Children enter Early Years with a range of early literacy experiences. Children get to know core books well each half term, and a wide range of resources stimulate interest in reading and writing. Literacy work is extended through imaginative role play.

In Nursery the focus for phonics starts with a daily 20-minute session of "Letters and Sounds" supported by actions from the Jolly Phonics scheme. Phonic skills are taught in a very engaging and practicable way, taking the children through a sequence of phases of phonic development.



For the first half term, the focus is given to Phase 1 language skills which are developed through songs, games, toys, stories, and rhymes. The children who are deemed to be ready are introduced, as a group, to Phase 2 phonics and learn to distinguish between sounds. During these sessions they focus on blending for reading and segmenting for spelling simple CVC words.

Planned Synthetic Systematic Phonics sessions continue through into Reception with children following the Read Write Inc Scheme. This scheme is recommended by the Department For Education (DfE). The expectation is that the majority of children will be secure in their recognition of Set 1 sounds and will be beginning to learn some Set 2 sounds by the end of the year. Staff follow the suggested Read Write Inc sequence of teaching.



Reception children have access to 'Ditty Pages' then books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and 'tricky' words and, as children re-read the stories, their fluency increases. The lessons aim to provide children with a thought-provoking introduction to a shared book and they are encouraged to discuss the text to improve their comprehension. Oxford Owl can be accessed from home which provides children with opportunities to re-read these texts.

Parents of all children in Early Years are encouraged to share stories with their child at home.