

English

We are committed to developing literacy skills through uniting the important skills of reading and writing. We teach children to read initially by a synthetic phonics approach, supplemented by a variety of means as children's skills develop.

The development of reading and writing skills is a school focus and children's progress is carefully monitored throughout the school. As part of the creative curriculum, writing genres are linked where possible to the main theme to enhance the learning experience. This provides creative room to promote writing skills through the new creative curriculum.

To help children progress in their learning and understand how they can improve they have termly targets which are updated with the children regularly

Children are provided with regular opportunities to develop the essential skills of speaking and listening. This is achieved through discussion, drama and specific listening activities in pairs, groups and as a class.

From Foundation Stage, children are taught letter formation and joins, following our cursive handwriting scheme which enables children to develop an independent, mature style of writing. Good presentation is expected at all times and we want each child to develop a fluent, legible and attractive style of handwriting.

The Read Write Inc. Phonics programme

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we are teaching children to read as quickly as possible. We want your child to love reading and to want to read for themselves.

How will my child be taught to read?

The whole school learns to read at the same time each day!

We start by teaching phonics to the children in the Reception class. This means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well.

We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters. The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'. The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. The teachers read to the children too, so the children get to know all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps their writing.

Language and Literacy Programme

This programme runs every day at the same time as Read Write Inc. Phonics and is designed for those children who have finished the Read Write Inc. phonics programme. During these hourly sessions the children develop their skills to gain a deep understanding of what they are reading and to combine that with writing tasks. Each group spends approximately three weeks on each module which are based on a different text. During Language and Literacy children experience a very wide range of reading styles which includes stories, reports, newspaper articles, biographies, poetry, short films and much more.