

Intent

In the Nebula Federation we believe that all children can become fluent readers and writers. We want children to develop a life long love for reading, and we believe that children should have access to language rich books and texts. Phonics provides the foundations for children to become fluent readers (decoders) and writers (segmenting for spelling).

Across the federation, developing a love of reading and the teaching of phonics is a high priority. Developing a love of reading is a core part of our practice in school. To support this, the children choose a reading for pleasure book from our libraries to take home and share with their families. The children will also take home a phonics focus book – these books only contain taught GPCs in line with our systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP). The purpose of a phonics focus book is to develop blending and segmenting skills.

Implementation

In the Nebula Federation, we use the Nebula Federation Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programme (as audited by the Wensum Hub Trust in September 2021) for teaching phonics. Phonics is taught to all children in reception and KS1 daily. Teachers and support staff show fidelity to our programme by using the long term plan, supporting documents and resources matched to our phonics programme

- Each phonics lesson contains the following elements:
 1. Revisit/Review - look at previously taught phonemes, graphemes, grapheme-phoneme correspondences, blending and segmenting skills.
 2. Teach – Introduce new phonics learning linked to the phonics programme.
 3. Practice/apply – Implementing the new learning. This could include practicing blending and segmenting skills.
 4. Assess – monitor the learning within each phase of the lesson to inform future planning.

In reception, children will learn twenty two phonemes in phase two and twenty seven phonemes in phase three. Pupils will learn how to blend and segment GPCs in order to read and write words. Reception children will also learn fifty sight words. In phase four pupils will learn how to blend and read words which contain adjacent consonants and multisyllabic words. Towards the end of their reception year, children will be exposed to a further twenty phonemes (initial alternative spellings).

In year one children will begin the year by consolidating their learning from reception through systematic consolidation blocks. The children will learn alternative pronunciations and they will be exposed to the remaining alternative spellings in phase five. This is linked to our 44 sounds chart.

In year two the children begin by consolidating learning from year one and they then move towards looking at rare alternative spellings, reading and spelling pattern rules as linked to the National Curriculum. In the summer term the children are supported to master reading and spelling skills, in order to support them in accessing the year three curriculum.

Children at risk of falling behind are quickly identified through daily lesson assessment and half termly phonics assessments (phonics tracker). Class teachers and support staff plan phonics interventions using the lesson assessment and phonics tracker assessment to ensure that all children make progress. Additional phonics provision has been put in place for children in key stage two who may need additional support (e.g. as the result of COVID 19 school closures).

Impact

Through the teaching of phonics and our reading comprehension curriculum, our aim is for all children to become confident readers by the end of KS1. Progress and attainment in phonics is assessed and monitored using in lesson assessment, phonics tracker, the statutory phonics screening check and KS1 statutory assessment (SATs).