

Teaching of Reading and Phonics

At Winterton Primary School and Nursery we follow the "Letters and Sounds" programme. This is a 6 phase programme taught from Nursery through to Year 2.

Phase 1 (Nursery)

Begins in Nursery and continues throughout phases 2-6. It includes speaking and listening activities focussing on sounds discrimination, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, oral segmenting and blending.

Phase 2 (Reception)

Introduces the letters and sounds (graphemes and phonemes) used to read simple words.

Phase 3 (Reception)

Introduces digraphs (two letters that make one sound) e.g. ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee.

Trigraphs (graphemes made up of three letters to represent a sound) e.g. igh, ear, air, ure.

Phase 4 (Reception)

Includes words with adjacent consonants e.g. damp, blank. Children are encouraged to blend sounds together fluently to read words.

Phase 5 (Year 1)

Children learn a final set of graphemes to read more complex words and learn alternate ways to spell the same sounds.

Children are taught using a range of strategies and resources to recognise sounds (phonemes) and letters (graphemes) in words, both spoken and written forms. They learn to blend and segment phonemes and graphemes to read and write words. We use the online resources from Espresso Phonics and Phonics Play alongside practical resources to teach phonic lessons in ability groups.

The core reading scheme we use is Oxford Reading Tree which is structured to support a phonic approach but we also supplement this with other phonic based schemes including Phonic Bugs and Big Cat Phonics.

We encourage the children to read daily at home and school. The books children the opportunity to apply their phonic knowledge learned in lessons and improve their segmenting and blending skills.

Parents are encouraged to contribute to the reading records to enable dialogue between school and home.

Another important part of learning to read is to encourage a child's enthusiasm for books and developing their interests in authors and genres. Listening to and talking about stories and non-fiction books is valuable in promoting early comprehension skills.

As the children progress through the school, they become 'free readers' choosing their own books, forming ideas about authors and genres and reading for pleasure. Children read for pleasure daily in class from Year 2-6.

Reading comprehension is taught as part of literacy lessons and guided reading is a feature of our teaching.