



Early Reading and Phonics

What?

Impact

Intent

At Newcroft Primary Academy, our aim in Phonics is to develop children's skills of listening, speaking, word reading and writing through teaching them phonetic knowledge and the skills of segmenting and blending, to decode words. This will enable them to become confident, independent, fluent readers which will greatly assist their comprehension skills. Phonics is the key to understanding spoken language and early reading, as it allows children to unlock their potential as independent learners and it opens the door to endless literature.

At Newcroft, children are exposed to phonics in Pre-School where they are taught the skills of speaking and listening to sounds in a fun, tactile experience and, within in a context, which lays the foundation for the phonics work that begins in EYFS. At Newcroft, we teach 'Jolly Phonics' in EYFS and 'Letters and Sounds' in Key Stage 1, alongside Dandelion Readers. The children are taught a rigorous, pacy four-part lesson where they are given the opportunity to review prior knowledge, learn and practise a new sound, through fun, practical blending and segmenting activities. They then use what they have learnt to apply in a reading or writing activity within a context.

In many areas of the curriculum, opportunities are used to inspire children to apply the skills they have learnt in phonics, as well as develop a love of reading and broaden their oral and written vocabulary, through VRIC, book based 'topics' and domain focused reading lessons.

Children are taught explicit synthetic phonics lessons daily in EYFS, Key Stage 1 and where appropriate in KS2. They are taught in a coherently planned small phase based group.

The results in previous phonics screens reflect this successful approach, as over the past two cohorts the results have been above National. Current Year 2 Children who completed the screen in December 2020 had a pass rate of 98.2% and an average score of 37.3/40.

Children are supported to choose two books to read at home that are consistent with their phonics ability and knowledge of common exception words. Children also have access to books online at home with 'Bug Club'.

This provides children with the opportunity to consolidate prior learning, practise new learning, build independence and it gives them the confidence to become fluent in word reading.

Children are explicitly taught VRIC lessons. This gives children a context to their reading through listening to a text, watching a piece of media or reading. They are taught that reading can be many forms. They are taught the reading domains including the skill of vocabulary acquisition.

Children practise all the skills of speaking, listening, reading and spelling during this lesson. They apply phonics knowledge and skills by often decoding new unfamiliar words by reading a range of text types thus developing confidence in word reading. This is also an opportunity for children to explain and understand the meaning of new words to develop vocabulary.

Each phonics group across the school is allocated a dandelion reading book each week to support phonemes taught in sessions.

This provides the children with further opportunity practise and apply new learning. As the books are matched to each specific phase, they are accessible for all children.

