



## How do we teach phonics?

### Early Years:

- Taught for 20 minutes discreetly – starts as whole class and when appropriate children are taught in streamed sets.
- They use Read, Write Inc resources to teach letter shapes and sounds and add actions or songs as appropriate to help the children remember the letter sounds.
- Children are given lots of phase 1 / 2 hearing sounds games as part of their curriculum. There are letters and sounds resources, LCP planning and EY resources to support this.

### Lower School (Y1-3):

- Children are assessed in the first two weeks of the Autumn Term using Read, Write Inc (RWI) assessment sheet 1. From these assessments children are streamed into a number of phonic groups (approx. 10)
- Children are assessed and re-streamed each term.
- Each teacher oversees the weekly planning for two groups – a TA and his / her own group. A short term planning grid is attached.
- From the assessment grid is a letter which states which sounds the children now need to learn, which to review and how to apply this.
- This uses RWI sound cards, green and red word cards and books. Alongside this we use a variety of kinaesthetic resources to spell and read words – such as magnetic letters, pots of objects with the sound, bibs with the letters in and pebbles with sounds on.
- Further children are taught to read “on sight” key words (red word cards) by pairs games, ping-pong balls, magnetic words, word searches and IWB games.
- Phonics takes place from 1.00-1.25pm every day in a variety of rooms and the teacher and TA rotate groups weekly to allow the teachers to be informed of their assessment levels when planning work.

### Upper School (Y4-6):

- Upper School phonics is taught in year groups in Y4,5&6 using a variety of spelling resources – RWI, spelling books are available as well as support for spelling and spelling ideas for KS2. If a child needs further phonic support they are withdrawn in a phonic group for catch-up phonics (see below).

### Catch-up scheme:

- During guided reading 2 groups of children are withdrawn for phonic catch-up using the RWI catch-up scheme.
- They are assessed in a similar way to KS1 and reassessed each term to see progress or for re-grouping.
- The ‘Fresh Start’ manual gives a structure to the teaching and uses the modules for the children to learn from.