

Phonics and Reading at Hinchley Wood

Phonics is taught within a language-rich environment and we support the children by teaching the strategies, rules and conventions systematically and explicitly. The school follows the 'Letters and Sounds' programme which was published by the Department for Education in 2007. This programme aims to build children's speaking and listening skills as well as preparing children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. All children in EYFS and KS1 receive 25 minute phonics lessons 4 times a week taught to apply what they are learning in phonics throughout their school day. Children who require further phonics support in KS2 are supported through group interventions. We use a range of interactive resources to teach phonics including Bug Club and Phonics Play.

Reading takes place throughout the school day - sometimes on a 1:1 basis, sometimes in small guided reading groups and sometimes in a whole class setting. Children at the earlier stages of reading are able to take home colour banded books from reading schemes specifically chosen to enhance their enjoyment of reading. We encourage the children to choose their own books though we work carefully with them to ensure they are exploring a variety of different types of text. We have a wide variety of books for the children to take home and read with their parents and carers and the schemes we use are fully in line with the Letters and Sounds phonics teaching that takes place within school. This means the children are able to use and apply the phonics skills they are learning in school every time they read at home.

We use a range of series to ensure the children experience different authors, topics etc. These include Floppy's Phonics, Collins Big Cat, Bug Club, Comics for Phonics, Snapdragon, Fireflies Non-Fiction, Traditional Tales, Songbirds and PM readers.

As the children become more confident readers, they become 'Free Readers' and we have a variety of books available for children to borrow and enjoy at home. They may browse and select books for enjoyment from our school library as well as their classroom book corners. Children in KS2 benefit from daily reading lessons in ability groups. During this time, they are given the opportunity to explore different text types, such as fiction and poetry, and are supported to access a range of challenging literacy heritage texts.

Throughout their time at school, children who require further reading support follow the Better Reading Scheme with a fully trained member of staff.