



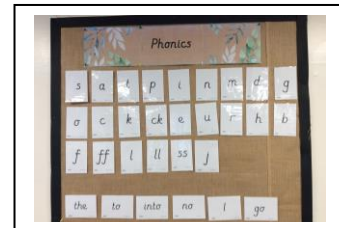
CARE-LEARN-THRIVE

Phonics

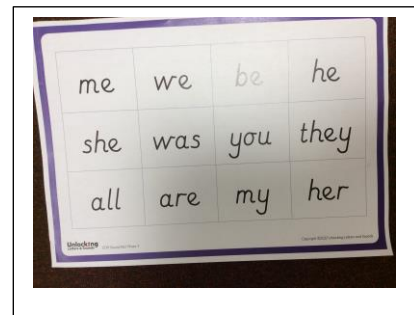
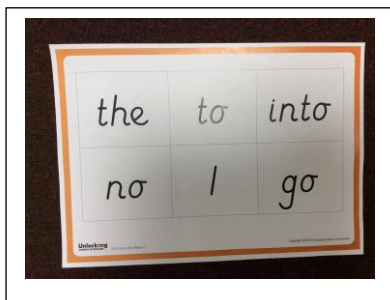
at

Winscombe Primary School

Getting the basics right matters a lot at Winscombe. We believe that all children need a solid grounding in phonics to ensure that they make the best progress in reading which then allows them to make the most of all the opportunities that our curriculum and life in our school has on offer. This information explains how we approach teaching children these basics. We hope it helps you understand the key ways in which we work as a school, and how you as parent can best support your child's learning within this essential area. We also hope that by reading this information you will understand how ambitious we are for your child, how we want to see them achieve in all areas during their time at Winscombe.



## What Phonics looks like at Winscombe





## *How we teach Phonics*



Phonics is central to the reading curriculum at Winscombe. If a child cannot read fluently and with understanding, they will not achieve as well as they should in other subjects. If a child does not have a solid phonic knowledge they are unable to decode words and access texts independently. They will also miss out on a crucial life skill that is also one of the most enjoyable past times that both adults and children can have. For these reasons we place great emphasis on how we teach phonics at Winscombe. When it comes to successfully learning phonics, we have clear expectations for staff and children, and for how parents can support their child developing as a reader. We follow the Unlocking Letters and Sounds programme.

### *Phonics in Early Years and Key Stage One*

We use a very successful approach named Unlocking Letters and Sounds.

Early phonics skills are consistently and rigorously taught. In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 daily planned phonics teaches children the complex connections between sounds and letters which is essential when learning to read and spell. The best phonics teaching involves active participation by all children, detailed tracking of their progress and swift intervention for any children who are struggling. Structure, fast pace, praise and reinforcement are all key features of our phonics sessions.

### *Phonics in Key Stage Two*

KS2 have a shared expectation that every child will have a solid grounding in phonics. They build on the good practice in KS1, and use assessment to inform them which children need to be supported in their acquisition of phonics. The staff place high priority on developing the children's oral language: speaking, listening, and enhancing their vocabulary. Errors in phonetic knowledge are picked up on in marking and feedback of the children's written work. Spellings can also be grouped and learnt phonetically.



## *How we make Phonics exciting and motivating for our children*

We ensure that our phonics teaching is engaging and motivating. Our lessons are interactive and inclusive. EYFS and Key Stage 1 classrooms all have displays which are incorporated into our phonics teaching. We also use the phoneme mats and common exception word mats through out the school to support the children with their writing.

## *How we assess Phonics*

We have twice termly assessments of phonics in Early Years and Year 1 and 2 for all children. This is based upon recognition of phonemes, blending words and also sight word recognition. We also use the phonics screening assessments to inform our teaching and the children's knowledge. In Key Stage 2 the children are assessed using the Unlocking Letters and Sounds assessment format.

## *How we help children who find Phonics difficult*

When we identify that the gap is widening in their phonic knowledge, they will either; receive 1:1 phonics intervention, access more opportunities to read with adults or undergo an intervention program. At this point, liaison between the SENDCo and the class teacher happens and a graduated response takes place. We have quick rapid intervention in Early Years following the teaching of new phonemes. We follow the Unlocking Letters and Sounds intervention programme. We also ensure that the phoneme mats and word mats that are in the classroom are the same so that the children have consistency throughout the school.

## *How parents and carers can help*

In EYFS and Key Stage 1 the parents are given our weekly teaching schedule of new phonemes and actions that we use to learn them. We also have phonics pages on our class website pages so that the parents understand our teaching of phonics and how to help their children learn.

## *How we celebrate Phonics*

When we individually assess children's phonics knowledge we tell them about their individual progress. We also celebrate phonics progress as the children progress through our reading scheme.