

Phonics Statement – Foresters Primary School

At Foresters Primary School we understand the importance of early literacy development. Young children who enjoy reading have greater accessibility to other subjects and wider opportunities. We teach reading through Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We start teaching phonics in Nursery/Reception and follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised progression, which ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school.

Foundations for phonics in Nursery We provide a balance of child-led and adult-led experiences for all children that meet the curriculum expectations for ‘Communication and language’ and ‘Literacy’. These include sharing high-quality stories and poems and learning a range of nursery rhymes and action rhymes. We provide activities that develop focused listening and attention, including oral blending and attention to high-quality language.

Daily phonics lessons in Reception and Year 1 We teach daily phonics lessons in both reception and year 1. In reception we build from 10-minute phonics lessons, and additional daily oral blending games, to a full-length lesson as quickly as possible. Children make a strong start in Reception with teaching starting promptly in the Autumn term. Children in Reception are taught to read and spell words using Phase 2 and 3 GPCs, and words with adjacent consonants (Phase 4) with fluency and accuracy.

Daily phonics lessons in Year 1 Daily 30 minute lessons take place with a review lesson on Friday where we review the week’s teaching to help children become fluent readers. Phase 3 and 4 and are taught to read and spell words using Phase 5 GPCs with fluency and accuracy.

Daily Keep-up lessons ensure every child learns to read. Children who need additional practice have daily keep-up support, taught by a trained adult. Keep-up lessons match the structure of class teaching, and use the same procedures, resources and mantras, but in smaller steps with more repetition, so that every child secures their learning. We timetable daily phonics lessons for any child in Year 2 or 3 who is not fully fluent at reading or has not passed the Phonics Screening Check. These children urgently need to catch up, so the gap between themselves and their peers does not widen. We use the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised assessments to identify the gaps in their phonic knowledge and teach to these using the Keep-up resources.

SEND Some children need additional support with reading and writing. At Foresters we believe that phonics is the first approach to successful reading and writing. We provide phonics support and quality interventions for those children who need it. We are also aware for a small number of children alternative strategies are needed.

Statement date: September 2021