



Phonics at Manor Hill First School

The aim of the Manor Hill First School phonics provision is to instil in our children a love of reading. It is our intention to plan effective and engaging Phonics lessons that are inclusive and systematic in approach to ensure that no child is left behind. Expert staff drive the teaching of Phonics to develop children who are accurate decoders who can segment and blend successfully, and that provides the building blocks for all reading to progress.

Little Wandle Programme for Teaching Phonics

At Manor Hill, we teach phonics following the Department for Education 'Little Wandle' programme. In phonics, we teach children that the letters of the alphabet represent a different sound, that these can be used in a variety of combinations and are put together to make words. The children learn to recognise all of the different sounds and combinations that they might see when they are reading or writing.

Our phonics teaching starts in Nursery and follows a very specific sequence that allows our children to build on their previous phonic knowledge and master specific phonic strategies as they move through school. As a result, all our children are able to tackle any unfamiliar words that they might discover.

When and How is Phonics Taught?

Phonics is taught daily to the children at Manor Hill. To support the children in recognising a phoneme, we use flash cards that link each phoneme with a rhyme. This helps to make the learning more memorable, for example, 'ai, tail in the rain'. The Phonics Teachers use these rhymes as a basis for their lessons, again reinforcing the phoneme being learnt.



tail in the rain



a light in the night



zoom to the moon

Books

To further support the children's development of phonics and reading each child in Reception and Year 1 takes in reading sessions. The children will have 3 teaching reading sessions a week. Each reading practice session has a clear focus, so that the demands of the session do not overload the children's working memory. The reading practice sessions have been designed to focus on three key reading skills:

Decoding: sounding out and blending to read.

Prosody: teaching children to read with understanding and expression.

Comprehension: teaching children to understand the text.

Children will receive a Phonics Book which is a phonetically decodable book that is closely matched to their reading ability. These books are carefully selected by their phonics teacher and match the phonemes being taught that week. The children are encouraged to read these books daily and the book will be changed each week.



Assessment

In Reception and Year 1, at the end of each week there is a review session which recaps the learning. Children identified in reception and Y1 as needing 'keep up' are immediately identified and daily 'keep up' sessions are put in place – sessions follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme. Children are also assessed at the end of every half term using the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised assessment tracker. Children who are in Y2-Y4 and need 'catch up' also follow the 'keep up program'.

'Bridge to spelling'

At Manor Hill in Year 2, we teach spelling following the Department for Education 'Little Wandle Bridge to spelling' programme. Little Wandle Spelling is a new programme designed to provide a seamless link from Little Wandle Letters to learning spellings in Year 2 by building on children's knowledge of the alphabetic code and teaching them how to spell with confidence. The Little Wandle Spelling programme begins with a five-week review of Phase 5. The Bridge to spelling teaches children how to 'think about spelling'. Over five weeks, the children will complete the alphabetic code and learn the underpinning concepts of spelling. Once this learning is secure, children are ready to move on to the Year 2 Spelling units. The Spelling units follow the familiar structure of Little Wandle phonics lessons, supporting children to make links to their phonics learning. Little Wandle Spelling teaches children to consider etymology, morphology and grammar when spelling new words. The programme provides full coverage of National Curriculum spelling requirements.

To help you in supporting your child with their Phonics, on our website you can also find the following documents:

Progression guide for Reception and Year 1: This will help you see which phonemes the children are learning and when they are taught in the year.

Initial Sounds Phoneme Mat and Grow The Code: These are the phoneme mats that the children use in class to help them with their writing. These are useful at home as it will support the children to recognise the sounds when reading and writing outside of school. The children are familiar with these and how to use them.

Pronunciation Guide: This outlines details for each phoneme the children learn and how to correctly pronounce it. There is also a Grow the Code guide which shows all the alternative sounds that a grapheme can make.