

The Teaching of Phonics at Lionel Walden Primary School

Phonics sessions are taught daily at Lionel Walden Primary School from the beginning of Foundation Stage to the end of Year 2, following the Letters and Sounds scheme of work.

The Letters and Sounds scheme is grouped into phases and pupils progress from phase 1 to phase 6, with pupils being taught in differentiated ability groups. These phases ensure that children progress from talking about and exploring sounds, through to understanding what graphemes and phonemes are. Pupils learn about GPCs (grapheme-phoneme correspondences), consonant digraphs, vowel digraphs and trigraphs. Children develop knowledge of how to 'blend' and 'segment' the phonemes within words, including those with adjacent consonants. Within phase 5, pupils progress to learning about split digraphs, alternative pronunciations of the same grapheme, and alternative representations of the same phoneme. Phase 6 concentrates on developing spelling rules and enhancing reading strategies. The reading and spelling of high frequency words is taught throughout the academic year, as part of phonic development, along with how to spell tricky words that may not fit conventional spelling rules.

Phonics is taught in a variety of ways, including through high quality modelling of sounding out, decoding, segmenting and blending strategies. Interactive resources and games are used and children are given the opportunity to rehearse sounds verbally and to record them in written work.

Phonics sessions are structured to build on previous learning and to introduce new phonics skills and subject knowledge. Sessions often follow the revisit/review, teach, practise and apply model. Sessions are planned to include opportunities for development of speaking and listening, reading and writing.

In June each year, all children in Year 1 undertake a National Phonics Screening Check. This check consists of 40 words (20 real words and 20 pseudo words), which all children will be asked to read. The purpose of this check is to see if pupils can decode a range of words that they have not seen before.

At Lionel Walden Primary School and Pre-School, the schemes used to support the teaching of phonics are primarily **Letters and Sounds** and **Jolly Phonics**.