

Phonics Curriculum



Intent

At Beccles Primary Academy, we value reading as a key life skill, and are dedicated to enabling our pupils to become lifelong readers.

The systematic teaching of phonics has a high priority throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. At Beccles Primary Academy, we acknowledge that children need to be taught the key skills in segmenting and blending. We also value and encourage the pupils to read for enjoyment and recognise that this starts with the foundations of acquiring letter sounds and segmenting and blending skills.

Our pupils learn to read using the Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics programme, which includes teaching synthetic phonics, sight vocabulary, decoding and encoding words, as well as spelling and accurate letter formation.

Implementation

In our school, phonics is taught daily in Reception and KS1. Read, Write Inc is taught using a detailed step-by-step teaching scheme which follows the format of:

- 1) To learn simple GPCs (grapheme phoneme correspondence)
- 2) To accurately blend taught sounds
- 3) To decode simple words containing taught graphemes
- 4) To read specifically designed books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and the common exception words.

Every child has a baseline assessment and pupils are taught within small homogenous groups fluidly across year groups, which reflect their performance in RWI phonics assessments. The children are subsequently assessed every half term. Within the lessons, the pupils read books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and ability to read 'tricky words' so they experience early reading success and gain confidence that they are readers.

Phonics is embedded across the curriculum and the children are encouraged to use phonics to support them in a range of theme learning. Phonics sounds are displayed in each classroom across the school. The children are encouraged to use these to support their writing in all lessons across the curriculum.

Impact

By the time children leave Key Stage One at Beccles Primary Academy they should be fluent readers. This ensures that the children can focus on developing their fluency and comprehension as they move through the school.

Attainment in phonics is measured by the Phonics Screening Test at the end of Year 1. However, we believe that reading is the key to all learning and so the impact of our reading curriculum goes beyond the results of the statutory assessments.

We measure the effectiveness and impact of our Phonics Education Curriculum in a variety of ways:

- Summative assessment - All pupils are assessed every 6-8 weeks, or more frequently for those making speedier progress, using RWI Assessment materials. These assess a pupil's sound to grapheme correspondence, ability to apply phonic knowledge to decode regular words and to read common exception words. Pupils' reading fluency is also evaluated.
- Formative assessment - Daily formative assessment opportunities are built into every RWI lesson. These opportunities provide teachers with knowledge of which children are making slow, steady or speedy progress allowing them to quickly intervene and support a pupil to 'catch-up' or to change group depending on what is the best option for the pupil.