

Phonics Intent, Implementation and Impact

Emneth Academy

Intent

At Emneth Academy, we strive to teach children to read effectively and quickly, using the Letters and Sounds programme which includes teaching synthetic phonics, sight vocabulary, decoding and encoding words as well as spelling and accurate letter formation. Our structure of teaching letter sounds is derived from the 'Letters and Sounds' programme which outlines six phonic phases, each with new phonemes to be learnt and increasing with difficulty as you progress from phase one to six.

We passionately believe that teaching children to read and write independently, as quickly as possible, is one of the core purposes of a primary school. These fundamental skills not only hold the keys to the rest of the curriculum but also have a huge impact on children's self-esteem and future life chances. Using the Letters and Sounds program we teach children to:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences

Implementation

At Emneth Academy, we believe that reading and writing is an essential life skill and are dedicated to enabling our children to become enthused, engaged and successful lifelong readers and writers. To support this, we implement the following: -

- Daily Phonics sessions, whereby the children learn new phonemes, improve their ability to segment and blend sounds, and their ability to apply this knowledge into their reading and writing
- Whole Class Reading sessions whereby the children are exposed to high-quality texts that they can demonstrate their understanding and thinking behind these, which in turn, inspires the children's own writing ability

All classes are equipped with a wide range of reading books to meet the needs of all children in the classroom which also engage and challenge keen readers. - All children from Reception to Year 6 are issued with a reading book that is appropriate for their reading ability and is changed regularly.

We expect family at home to read these books with their child and make comments in their child's reading record. Children in every year group are read to by their teacher every day. This could be a book that the teacher recommends to the class or a recommendation from a child.

In practice, children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and are taught how to blend these sounds to decode (read) words. At Emneth Academy, we follow the 'Letters and Sounds' programme of sound teaching as mentioned above.

We start teaching phonics from their first day in school at Phase Two, which introduces the children to 23 new phonemes. During this phase the children will learn to recognise, form and use these sounds in simple consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words to begin to read and

write simple words and captions. Once they have conquered this skill, they start reading stories and texts that have words made up of the sounds they know. This means that they can embed and apply their phonic knowledge and start to build their reading fluency.

Once secure, the children move on to the next phase whereby they will learn new sounds, improve their reading fluency and develop a greater writing ability. Throughout this process there is a focus on comprehension, reading with expression and reading for enjoyment.

Throughout Early Years and Key Stage One, children are taught in whole class sessions, however some children may be required to do further phonics work in small groups with a teacher or teaching assistant to ensure they are on track to meet the required standard at the end of their phase of learning. Teachers and teaching assistants regularly assess the children in their group and converse with the teacher so that all of the planning meets the needs of the children in that group, therefore ensuring all children are confident before moving onto a new phonics phase.

We make sure that 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, as well as consolidating the learning that takes place in school.

We continue phonics teaching into Key Stage 2 for those children that still need support. Following initial assessment, they work in small groups with an adult to bridge any gaps in their phonic knowledge in readiness for the next phase of their learning.

Impact

Throughout the teaching of Phonics, we are able to measure attainment using the Key Stage One and Key Stage Two national assessments, along with the information provided by the Phonics Screening check in Year One. However, at Emneth Academy, we believe that reading is the key to all learning and so the impact of our reading curriculum goes beyond and is embedded across the entire curriculum for our children