



## Phonics

At Park Hall Infant Academy, we use Read Write Inc (RWI), a synthetic phonics program that is carefully adapted to meet the needs of our children. Nursery children begin phonics when they are ready and are exposed to daily 'Speed Sound' sessions, where they begin to identify letter sounds and develop early oral blending skills. In Reception and Year 1, children have four phonics sessions each week in small, differentiated groups, focusing on letter sounds, decoding, blending, and speaking, listening, and reading activities. Groups are regularly reviewed and children are assessed half-termly to ensure they are placed in groups that match their current sound knowledge. Some children receive targeted tutoring to close gaps in their phonics understanding, ensuring that all children make appropriate progress. All adults leading phonics groups liaise closely with the Phonics Lead and use ongoing assessment information to track progress and plan next steps. Children in Year 2 who require additional support to meet the phonics screening expectations are provided with extra phonics sessions.

### Intent

At Park Hall Infant Academy, our aim is to ensure that all pupils develop a secure and confident knowledge of phonics, enabling them to read and write successfully. Pupils will be able to apply their understanding of letters and sounds to decode a wide range of words, allowing them to access reading books that are carefully matched to their phonic knowledge. In writing, children will make phonically plausible attempts at unfamiliar words, supporting age-appropriate independence and confidence as writers. They will also be able to use their phonics knowledge to apply spelling rules accurately across a range of words, building a strong foundation for future literacy development.

### Implementation

In EYFS and KS1, a systematic and rigorous approach to phonics is applied through the delivery of the Read Write Inc. programme. Robust, half-termly assessments ensure that children are making at least expected progress and are placed in groups that match their current ability. Where children are not making expected progress, intensive 1:1 'Fast Track Tutoring' sessions are provided to address gaps and accelerate learning. Staff delivering Read Write Inc. lessons have access to high-quality training materials and attend regular coaching sessions led by the Phonics Lead, ensuring that teaching is consistent across all groups and of a high standard. Children take home both familiar and unfamiliar books that are closely matched to their phonic knowledge to support reading at home. In KS2, some children continue to access Read Write Inc. lessons to consolidate their phonics knowledge, develop reading fluency, and gain confidence in reading accurately. Across the school, all classrooms display Speed Sound Charts, which are used as working walls and updated as necessary to support children's ongoing phonics learning.

### Impact

Children at Park Hall Infant Academy feel confident using their phonic knowledge and the strategies they have been taught to read words. This enables them to access a wide range of materials and fosters a genuine love of reading. By taking home books that are closely matched to their phonic knowledge, children can celebrate reading success with their parents and carers, building the confidence and motivation to read regularly, which in turn supports their progress. In writing, children make phonetically plausible attempts at spelling words, allowing them to communicate their ideas across a range of subjects and for a variety of purposes, both in and out of school. Using their phonic knowledge, children are able to make informed spelling choices and spell many words correctly.

In short, we aspire for our pupils to:

- Read at an age-appropriate level with fluency, enabling full access to the broader curriculum
- Develop a life-long love of reading, reading widely and often with fluency and comprehension
- Achieve well at EYFS and Key Stage 1 assessment points
- Have the phonics skills required to pass the Year 1 phonics screening check on the first attempt

***At Park Hall Infant Academy, reading goes beyond end-of-year results. We aim to instil a genuine passion for reading, encouraging children to read for knowledge and understanding, as well as for pleasure. Our pupils are inspired to immerse themselves in a world full of awe, wonder, and curiosity.***