



Allendale Primary School Phonics and Reading Scheme Information

Phonics is taught from the Early Years class throughout Year 1 and Year 2. At Allendale Primary School we use the Read, Write, Inc, (RWI) programme to systematically teach synthetic phonics. Parents are encouraged to find out more about this approach to teaching and are welcome to come into school to see it in action or attend one of our parental workshops.

The RWI programme is very interactive, lively and successful. Many of the younger children say the RWI is their favourite lesson. Children are grouped according to their phonic knowledge and are taken through a series of activities which require the children to practise their reading, comprehension, spelling and writing skills. It also enables children to develop their speaking and listening skills and enhances and extends their vocabulary.

Children in Year 1 are expected to achieve a certain level of phonic knowledge and are required by the government to take the phonics screening test. However, we do not believe that this is always an accurate reflection of a child's reading ability as there are many strategies used in the acquisition of reading skills of which phonics is one. Some children struggle to read using phonics, relying on their sight reading and visual memory, this does not make them a less able reader.

If children need a boost with their literacy skills from Year 3 onwards we may run a literacy intervention, of which a phonics programme such as RWI Fresh Start may be used as a catch up.

Running alongside our phonic teaching is the teaching of reading. We use Oxford Reading Tree as our core scheme, supplemented by various other material matched to the needs of the child. Children progress through the reading scheme at an appropriate pace for them; it is not a race! When the children have acquired and consolidated their early reading skills, they begin to choose their own reading material at a suitable level.

Parents have a role and responsibility to support their child's reading by allocating time to read with them. Reading stories to children is a valuable activity that parents can do at home, perhaps at bedtime. Listening to children read, helping them break words down, sound words out, work out words from the context of the sentence are all valuable strategies parents can employ as well as asking children for a recap of the story or prediction or asking questions to check they have understood - reading is not just about decoding words.

We have a wide selection of reading material, covering different genre. Children are also encouraged to choose a library book which may be read to them by a parent or older sibling. We endeavour to immerse the children in the written word and allow them to use their creativity and ideas, inspired by the material read to them, to develop their own writing.

Celebrations such as World Book day are actively promoted in school to encourage a reading environment.

