

Phonics Statement

Intent

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

We know that there is extensive evidence that shows that phonics teaching is an important component in the development of early reading (+5 months EEF 2022) Therefore our aim is to provide explicit and systematic teaching of phonics which supports children in making connections between the sound patterns they hear in words and the way that these words are written.

We recognise that phonics does not stand alone – effective phonics teaching needs to be embedded in a rich literacy environment. Therefore, we aim to develop understanding of language and enjoyment of reading from early years onwards.

Implementation

The systematic teaching of phonics has a high priority throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 using the Twinkl Phonics Programme.

Phonics is taught daily to all children in Foundation Stage, and KS1. It is delivered in a whole class format because it enables staff to ensure application across subjects embedding it within a rich literacy environment.

Additional support is provided to those children in Year 2 who did not meet the expected standard in the Phonics Screening in Year 1 - and interventions are planned for those children who are working below expected levels.

Teachers regularly assess the pupils' phonics knowledge using the phonics assessment, reading milestones and Reading Early Learning Goal (in EYFS). These regular assessments inform planning and allow teachers to identify any gaps in learning.

The children have reading books which they are encouraged to read regularly at home which match their current phonics level.

Impact

Through the teaching of systematic phonics, our aim is for children to become confident readers by the end of Key Stage One. This way, children can focus on developing their fluency and comprehension as they move through the school. Attainment in reading is measured using the statutory assessments at the end of Key Stage One and Two. These results are measured against the reading attainment of children nationally. Attainment in phonics is measured by the Phonics Screening Test at the end of Year 1. However, we firmly 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.