

Phonics and Early Reading at Christ Church C of E Nursery and Primary School



Reading and writing go hand in hand, and without one the other cannot flourish. We know that decoding (reading) and encoding (spelling) are skills we need to equip our children with, from the moment they come into school, and that is why we value our phonics provision. The children are taught to decode and encode through explicit teaching and practice of the key skills and concepts:

Skills:

- Blending
- Segmenting

Phonic Manipulation Concepts:

- Letters are symbols that represent sounds
- Sounds can be spelled using 1, 2, 3 or 4 letters
- The same sound can be spelled in more than one way (fly, bright, hibernate, +e)
- Many spellings can represent more than one sound (head, seat, break)

At Christ Church, we use Sounds-Write Phonics. The programme which is clear, consistent and cumulative. In Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2, the children will have daily Sounds-Write lesson.

The reading curriculum at Christ Church builds on the Sounds-Write Phonics approach and takes into account the wide variety/forms of reading (both in and out of school) which are now universally valued as essential tools for the 21st Century: including digital, online and moving image media. We encourage teachers to develop their own expertise as readers, to create a community of readers in the school.

When choosing texts, we look for a balance of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Reading is one of the most important ways in which children observe and absorb the best language skills. So, while components, such as grammar and KS1 reading vocabulary are important in the new curriculum, they will also be taught in a contextualised way, through the enjoyment of shared reading.

In KS1, we also use a range of phonetically decodable texts, linked to Sound-Write Phonics, to support the early stages of reading. Once pupils are confident, we encourage teachers to use quality texts to support the teaching of reading skills and deepen reading for pleasure, which is foundational and is at the heart of our school.