

## Phonics Teaching at Tower View Primary School 2016-17

We place a great deal of emphasis on the development of reading skills across the whole school and aim to have every child reading to a good standard by the time they leave the school and go to the next stage of their education. This includes skills in comprehension, fluency in reading, stamina and being able to decode words. We endeavour to undertake this across the whole curriculum and engender a love of reading and specific skills in using the library to choose books they will enjoy.

We use phonics teaching as a key element to this development from a very early age and have several vital aspects to creating a successful approach.

1. Good Practice:
  - i) Pure sounds
  - ii) Children actively involved
  - iii) High expectations
  - iv) Rapid acquisition of knowledge
  - v) Regular and pro-active assessment
  - vi) Daily discrete, systematic, multi-sensory phonics lessons, ability not age appropriate
  - vii) Application of phonic knowledge and skills across the whole curriculum
  
2. Basic structure of a phonics lesson:
  - i) Revisit and review
  - ii) Teach
  - iii) Practice
  - iv) Apply and assess
  
3. Use of weekly spelling tests and associated homework to cement the understanding of phonemes and high frequency words.
  
4. An approach based upon "Playing with Sounds" and associated games.
  
5. A 6 phased development of phonics across the school

- i) Explore / experiment sounds
- ii) Phonemes/ graphemes, c.v.c.
- iii) 44 phonemes recognition
- iv) Blending and segmenting
- v) Alternative pronunciations, longer vowels, polysyllabic words
- vi) Application of total skills and knowledge, understanding of irregularities

Through this approach the children are closely tracked, assessed and developed so as to attain their potential . At the same time children will be given a wide experience of books, stories, spoken language and non-fiction to broaden their vocabulary and love of reading.

We encourage all parents to be a full and pro-active partner in the process of reading development and would view the following as ways of making reading fun, interesting and part of normal everyday life:

- a. Read regularly to and with your child.
- b. Read in a quiet and comfortable place.
- c. Keep reading positive through praise and encouragement.
- d. Talk about the books read....ask and be asked questions about them.
- e. Read whenever and wherever possible...shops, comics, signs, T.V. recipes etc.
- f. Play words games.
- g. Overall show that reading is both important and fun!

The new National Curriculum has highlighted the importance of good reading to a child and their life beyond school stating:

"It is essential that, by the end of their primary education, all pupils are able to read fluently, and with confidence, in any subject in their forthcoming secondary education and beyond."

"Reading also feeds imagination and opens up a treasure-house of wonder and joy for curious young minds."

We at Tower View aim to meet and exceed both of these targets with help from parents and pupils.