

Intent

At Pentland we aim:

- To support every child in developing a secure knowledge of the alphabetic code.
- To secure every child's skill of blending to decode new unfamiliar words.
- To support every child in the ability to read 'tricky' words on sight.
- To encourage children to apply what they have learnt in phonics to spell many tricky words accurately and use their phonic knowledge to segment and spell many unfamiliar words.
- To ensure our children meet age-related expectations.

Phonics lessons, you will see/hear:

- Learning taking place!
- All children participating in the Phonics lesson.
- **Consistency** in the use of the same resources in delivering the phonics program throughout school.
- **Fidelity** to the phonics scheme
- Appropriately **paced** lessons
- Good modelling and enunciation by adults, with misconceptions addressed
- Constant monitoring of child's pronunciation of GPCs, blending and reading of words including tricky words to ensure they are doing so with accuracy and confidence.

What do our pupils say about Phonics?

"We learn how to segment to help with our spelling" – Y2

"We can read tricky words and look at the cards to read it" – Y2

"Phonics is fun because we play a picture game" – Reception (Keep Up)

"It helps my brain get bigger because I can read and write really well" - Y2

Implementation

- The synthetic phonics program taught consistently throughout school is Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised. This is a sequential, progressive and challenging programme.
- Phonics lessons are taught **daily** across school.
- Resources used to deliver the Phonics Lessons are consistent throughout school.
- Until children pass the Year 1 Phonics Screening and the end of Little Wandle assessment, they will read Little Wandle Collins Big Cat Books. These decodable books are assigned to pupils to match their secure phonic knowledge.
- Pupils are expected to read books with 90% fluency.
- In Year 2, pupils will continue with phonics until they are ready to move onto a spelling based programme.



Phonics at Pentland

'In a Nutshell'



Phonics Interventions

- Daily Individual and Small Group Keep-Up sessions to address gaps in children's phonic learning from Little Wandle with target children (this can be blending, GPCs, tricky words)
- In Year 2, those who require additional teaching will take part in the Rapid Catch Up Programme, linked to Little Wandle.
- One to one or small group phonic activities for children on the SEN Register that caters for their specific needs, linked to the Little Wandle SEND programme.

How do we assess our children?

- We use AFL during daily Phonics lessons and Keep Up sessions. We assess the children in Reception and Key Stage One every 5 weeks using the Little Wandle assessment criteria. This data is then used to identify pupils to target for regular 'Keep Up'.
- We aim for all of our children to pass the Year 1 Phonics Screening, so ensure we have completed PSC mocks from February onwards.
- We also monitor application of phonics knowledge in reading and writing.

Impact

Our Phonics curriculum will allow our children to quickly master the skill of decoding words and reading words on sight. Phonics is taught directly and daily, to enable our children to grasp the alphabetic code at a quick pace. By constantly revisiting previous learning, this will allow our children to retain and master phonics at the expected level for their age. By Year 2 the children will be able to apply their secure knowledge of the phonic code to read longer words with accuracy.

Our priorities to improve Phonics are:

- All planning from Nursery to the end of Year 1 follows the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised program.
- All children access the same daily Phonics focus.
- Phonics is taught with consistency and fidelity to the scheme
- Keep Ups take place on a daily basis, with targeted children
- All children in Year 2 will pass the PSC resit in June
- There are opportunities for coaching and mentoring
- Learning is constantly revisited. Children in danger of falling behind are quickly identified and supported.

Non Negotiables

- All phonics planning follows the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Program
- Phonics displays and working walls in every classroom show the build-up of phonics throughout the year as well as what is being taught at the time
- All resources used to deliver Phonics are consistent throughout the school.
- Phonics is modelled at every opportunity whether that is decoding words when reading or segmenting words when spelling in writing.
- Children have access to their year group's 'Grow the Code' in Writing Areas and when completing a writing-based activity to support them with GPC recognition.
- All children are assessed in Phonics on a regular basis
- Daily Keep Up session take place in every class