

Phonics and Reading at Donisthorpe Primary School

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 follow the synthetic phonics approach, using the 'Letters and Sounds' programme. It is an approach to teaching phonics in which individual letters or letter sounds are blended to form groups of letters or sounds, and those groups are then blended to form complete words.



We use the Oxford Reading Tree. This provides a variety of fiction and non-fiction books to develop children's reading range. Children learn to read at different rates. Once they finish the reading scheme, we encourage them to become 'free readers' and choose their own books.

Our daily phonics sessions are fun, involving lots of speaking, listening and games. The emphasis is on children's active participation. They learn to use their phonic knowledge for reading and writing activities and in their independent play. This is sometimes supplemented by other reading schemes, and we also encourage children to read non-fiction texts from the school's library.

Letters and Sounds is divided into six phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. There are no big leaps in learning. Children have time to practice and rapidly expand their ability to read and spell words. They are also taught to read and spell 'tricky words' – words with spellings that are unusual or that children have not yet been taught. These include the words 'to', 'was', 'said' and 'the' – you can't really break the sounds down for such words so it's better to just 'recognise' them.

We teach a wide range of nursery rhymes and songs and read good books to and with the children. This helps to increase the number of words they know – their vocabulary – and helps them talk confidently about books. The children learn to identify rhyme and alliteration.

Ways you can support your children at home:

<http://www.familylearning.org.uk/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/parents/ten-tips-on-hearing-your-child-read>

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/School>

<http://www.springboard.org.uk/data/files/Parents/parents-little-guide.pdf>

Phonics Games

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kentict/content/games/literacy_menu.html

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

