

Phonics and Reading



Phonics

At St Paul's the children are taught how to use and apply phonics to aid their reading and spelling. The DfE (Department for Education) 'Letters and Sounds' phonics programme is used.

St Paul's Phonics planning is derived from the Letters and Sounds publication, which reflects the 4-part teaching sequence of review, teach, practice, apply. The children work in small focus groups allowing them to access the Phonics phase they are working within. The children are taught how to recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes, identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make and learn how to blend these sounds together to make a word.

Phonics teaching is informally assessed on a regular basis and at the end of Year 1 there is a statutory screening of the children's phonic ability, which is repeated in Year 2 if required for those children that do not meet the standard.

Reading

Teachers at St Paul's engage the children in reading by using a wide variety of texts and formats, including reading on screen. A large variety of books are available for the children to read in school, including many reading schemes, which encourage the children to read for a purpose and also for pleasure. We also have a large selection of books that can be accessed by the children in the school library.

In Foundation Stage and Year 1 the children follow the 'Floppy Phonics', Dandelion Launchers and Collins Big Cats for home reading. As part of guided reading we use Oxford Reading Tree and Phonics Bug. These books fully support and are in line with the 'Letters and Sounds' phonics scheme of work, thus allowing the children to practise, consolidate and use and apply the phonics skills they have learnt in phonics sessions.

When the children are able to read more fluently they progress onto the 'Oxford Reading Tree/Treetops and Project X for Guided Reading. This continues into Key Stage 2 where they also read novels once they are fluent confident readers.

Other examples to support reading include annual book weeks, reading workshops for parents, visits from authors and a Kindle reading club (DEAR SQUAD).