St Paul's CE Primary School, Utkinton & Cotebrook

Phonics Curriculum



Here at St Paul's CE Primary School, we are proud to provide excellent care and outstanding education for children from three to eleven years old in our unique, picturesque setting. Our Christian vision is at the heart of all we do, and we endeavour to provide a personalised curriculum to each and every child.

Our small class sizes allow us to give each child a high level of support and guidance. We take care to ensure that we know every child's starting points and we adapt our teaching to meet their needs, meaning every pupil is experiencing challenge and success.

Our Phonics curriculum is mapped out over EYFS and Key Stage 1. We have worked hard to tailor the curriculum so it is bespoke to our children, supports their journey to becoming early readers and provide opportunities for them to learn how to read fluently with intonation and confidence but also how to read and make sense of age appropriate texts. Our phonics also supports the fundamentals with spelling before children move onto Key Stage 2.

Our Phonics Curriculum

You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax all you need is a book!" - Dr. Seuss

At St Paul's, through ensuring quality reading provision, we foster a love of reading and learning. We aspire for children to not only read confidently for knowledge but for enjoyment, discovery and inspiration. At St. Paul's, we use synthetic phonics and follow the 'Read Write Inc' programme (RWI). This is a systematic and rigorous method of learning letter sounds and blending them together to read, write and spell words. Along with our daily phonics lessons for children in Reception and KS1, we read lots of stories to children and they will love reading because we have made it easy for them (Read Write Inc, Ruth Miskin)

Intent

- To develop a wide vocabulary through stories.
- To be confident, fluent readers.
- To have confidence and enthusiasm for reading a range of reading materials and genres.
- To develop a love of reading.
- To develop skills for accurate spelling.

Implementation

- RWI gives children a hook to learn the sounds in the English language.
- All staff delivering Read, Write Inc sessions are well trained in the programme.
- At St.Paul's we have a wide range of RWI resources as well as the Ruth Miskin Online portal with regular updates and training to ensure quality teaching.
- The children read books in line with their phonics knowledge and children can then focus on developing fluency and comprehension throughout the school. Attainment in phonics is measured by the phonics screen Test at the end of Year 1 and ongoing assessment throughout the Read, Write, Inc programme.
- Class teachers regularly update reading areas to include a range of non-fiction, fiction, poetry and rhyme reading materials that excites and challenges readers.
- Children in EYFS and KS1 have daily synthetic phonics sessions, which follow the Read Write Inc (RWI) scheme. Children are encouraged to transfer the skills they learn in phonics sessions into their independent reading and writing in the continuous provision.
- Guided reading books and home reading books are carefully matched to the sounds the children have been taught.
- Children are taught to:
 - decode letter/sounds correspondences quickly and effortlessly, using their phonic knowledge and skills
 - read 'tricky' (red words) on sight
 - understand what they read
 - > read aloud with fluency and expression
 - write confidently, with a strong focus on vocabulary and grammar
 - > spell quickly and easily by segmenting the sounds in words

Impact

The children's progress is assessed within each phonics lesson through reviewing, reading and writing sounds and words. Children's progress is continually reviewed and assessments carried out half termly or more are used to ensure they are in the correct group and receiving support they need. Children move through the phonic books and Book Bands until they reach the required standard to become an independent reader, choosing a book to read from our well-stocked school or class libraries. The national Phonics Screening Check is performed in June of Year 1. The purpose of the screening check is to confirm that all children have learned phonic decoding to an age-appropriate standard. The children who did not meet the required standard for the check in year 1 enter again in year 2 with additional support. As children enter KS2, provision is made for those children still requiring daily phonics. Pupil progress will also identify precise actions and objectives for targeted focus children, including the lowest 20% who are not likely to meet the required standard of the Phonics Screening Check. We recognise that quality first teaching in phonics is the essential first step in improving outcomes for all children. With this in mind, we ensure that teachers and teaching assistants are kept up to date on the latest initiatives and news. This is through continuous professional development and using the Ruth Miskin Online Portal.