



GREAT HORWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Approach to the teaching of Phonics in Key Stage 1

The teaching of phonics is an important part of the curriculum in Foundation stage and Key Stage 1. We follow the 'Little Wandle' phonics scheme using 'Letters and Sounds', where children are taught the 44 phonemes that make up all the sounds required for reading and spelling. These phonemes include those made by just one letter and those that are made by two or more (digraphs and trigraphs).

Children are also introduced to the 'Little Wandle' letter formation rhymes to support handwriting and rhymes to support learning of digraphs and trigraphs. As the children move through the scheme and are secure in the first set of sounds, they are introduced to alternative ways of representing the same sound, eg 'ee' can be represented as 'ee', 'ea', 'e-e', 'e'.

We ensure that our teaching of phonics is rigorous, structured and enjoyable. Children have discrete, daily phonics sessions where they are introduced to new phonemes, can practise and revise previous learning and have plenty of opportunities to apply the knowledge they have.

Children work with pace and are encouraged to apply their knowledge across the curriculum with any reading or writing activities. Within phase 2 children are introduced to alien words, here the children have to use their knowledge of phonics to blend sounds and read the words. Children are taught these by showing an alien picture next to the word to encourage them to blend the sounds they see rather than try and make them real words. Within all phases children are exposed to alien words that contain phoneme from all different phases.

At Great Horwood we use Collins Big Cat reading books to match the phonics currently being taught to relevant reading material. In Key stage 2 for those few children who still require phonics teaching within phase 2-5 phonics we use Big Cat phonics and Ransom stars books for older readers.

Older Free readers are able to choose books from a range of reading schemes which include: Oxford Reading Tree, Usborne Beginner Books, and Big Cat Phonics as well as free reading from the school library.