

# Phonics at Pot Kiln Primary School

What is Phonics? - It is when we teach the children the sounds (phonemes) which a letter or group of letters make. Children learn to blend the sounds in words to read them and segment (break down) the sounds in words to spell them.

## Our approach to teaching Phonics

**Daily discrete phonics sessions** start in Nursery and continue until the end of Year 2 when the great majority of children should be confident readers and have completed the phonics programme as set out in Letters and Sounds (achieving Phase 6).

All phonics in the EYFS and KS1 is taught following the **Letters and Sounds** document alongside the resources and supporting materials produced by **Jolly Phonics**.

Teaching is **multi-sensory**, encompassing simultaneous visual, auditory and kinaesthetic activities to enliven core learning

Phonics is taught in short, briskly paced sessions and then applied to reading and writing in meaningful contexts

All activities are well matched to the children's abilities and interests, and all classroom environments have an age appropriate display concentrating on both sounds and key words

All phonics sessions are taught as a whole class and activities differentiated to match the various abilities within the class, including challenges for the more able pupils.

## Phonics Intervention Groups

Children in need of intervention will be identified and extra sessions will be provided for them **outside the daily timetabled Phonics session**.

Here is a photo of a small group of children involved in a phonics intervention group. Children that need extra support in phonics will often be involved in the X-Code reading scheme which aims to support children's phonics skills.

For further information about teaching phonics, please see our Phonics policy. Parents may also be interested in looking at our parents information leaflet on Phonics. We also run Phonics workshops for parents so look out for these in our school newsletter.

## Year 1 Phonics screening test

The children's progress in their Phonics skills are carefully tracked using the 'Letters and Sounds' assessment sheets. In Year 1 children will take a phonics screening check. This assessment will confirm whether individual pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. If a child does not reach the appropriate standard then an additional support will be put in place in order for the child to make accelerated progress with their reading and writing.