

Teaching Phonics at Steeple Claydon School

Our mission at Steeple Claydon School is to teach **every child** to be able to read and write and for the children to love doing so! We put the teaching of reading at the heart of our school and we are passionate about the beginnings of early reading.

We are very proud of our phonics teaching and the success of our children in learning to be early readers. Phonics begins in the Early Years settings and progress into Year 1 and 2. In the later years, phonics is taught in a bespoke manner to meet the children's needs.

We teach phonics using a systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programme called 'Read Write Inc', a government validated programme. We have taught using this successfully for many years now. In phonics lessons, children learn the English alphabetic code: first they learn one way to read the 40+ sounds and blend these sounds into words. They then learn to read the same sounds with alternative graphemes.

Here are some links to view some modelled phonics lessons:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6dSsXkD1wM>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEzfpod5w_Q

In class, we ensure that children use 'pure' sounds as this aids blending. Don't panic if you are unsure of how to pronounce the sounds or if you would just like a helpful reminder - the following website is a useful recap:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q>

The *phonic screening check* is a statutory requirement for all children in year 1 to take (and in Year 2 if they don't reach the required standard in Year 1). The test consists of 40 words: 20 words are 'real' and 20 words are 'alien'. The benchmark for past years has been 32 out of 40.

The websites below allow you to generate some example screening checks to practise with your child at home.

<http://www.oxfordphonicschecksupport.co.uk/review?type=example>

Research shows that the most effective way to teach phonics is in a fun, stimulating way - just like they do in our 'Read, Write Inc.' lessons in school. The following websites may be useful for your child to use at home if they would like to do more practice.

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/>

