



HCPS approach to Early Phonics

Synthetic phonics has been proved to be the most effective approach to developing early reading proficiency and at HCPS we believe this is the best way to introduce children to the joy of reading.

We follow a bespoke phoneme-led system that enables all children to make connections between the sounds they hear and the letters that represent these sounds. We have developed a consistent approach across the school that utilises a range of resources and pedagogy based on the Read Write Inc. system but is adapted to suit the needs of our pupils. Daily phonics sessions are introduced in FS1 and continue in FS2 and Key Stage 1. Each session challenges every child to read and write using phonics strategies and apply these skills in writing a sentence. Parents are invited to phonics training sessions when their child joins Foundation Stage and again when they join Year 1. Children are well prepared for the statutory Phonics Screening Check in the summer of Year 1 and HCPS children have historically performed extremely well. However, at HCPS we do not believe that scoring well in the phonics test is an end in itself and strive to encourage a rounded approach to reading where phonics skills are applied to increase fluency and improve comprehension. Our reading books are levelled to match the progression in phonics in order to offer children a range of fiction and non-fiction texts to challenge them at an appropriate level to ensure accelerated learning.

Our aims are that all children should use phonics as their primary strategy for decoding words in order to read and subsequently use this strong foundation and other strategies in order to develop a life-long love for reading.

Phonics

- Daily Phonics sessions in FS and KS1 utilising Read, Write Inc. resources.
- Consistent phonics displays in every classroom.
- Pupils are grouped according to individual needs in FS and KS1.
- Regular assessments track progress in phonics and identify vulnerable pupils.
- Phonics homework set weekly in Year 1.
- Reading books levelled to match phonic progression.
- Phonics and reading interventions at KS2 provide targeted support for pupils with individual needs in reading.