

# PHONICS AT CASTLEWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## How do we teach phonics?

We plan our own lessons based on the phases, following the order of the letter sequences. We use Schofield and Sims My Letters and Sounds to teach phonics at Castlewood, following the clear progression of the phases.

We teach the children in phases across Key Stage One. Our teaching assistants deliver some phonics groups, this allows directed, small group teaching to allow the children to make the best progress.

Phonics is taught daily in EYFS and Key Stage One, in short focused sessions.

We begin Phase 1 phonics (listening skills etc) during settling sessions and Phase 2 begins once the children have started school full time, this continues with Phase 3 and Phase 4 in Reception. Phase 5 is taught during Year One and then moved to Phase 6, incorporating the curriculum spelling rules and patterns.

## Phonics lessons at Castlewood

Phonics is taught in daily 20 minute lesson in across phase groups. Lessons are delivered by both teachers and teaching assistants. Lessons are interactive and include a range of activities, such as writing, games and modelling. All lessons begin with a revision of previously taught sounds. Children are regularly assessed during the phonics lessons.

## Assessments of Phonics

In EYFS and Year 1, all children have a profile on Phonics Tracker (new for 2021/22 academic year). This allows assessments of phonics sounds, keywords and mock phonics screening results to be tracked and analysed. Children causing concern are quickly identified. Children in Y2 that have not passed their phonics screening are tracked internally on a paper system. Y1 complete mock screenings: Oct, Feb, April. Assessments of phonics sounds reflect when these have been taught. Keywords are checked alongside reading. There is regular informal assessments of phonics sounds and skills during the lessons.

## Early Reading in EYFS and KS1

Phonics is a significant area within EYFS. We plan our own lessons based on the sequence of phases. We use Schofield and Sims My Letters and Sounds to introduce the sounds in phases 2,3 and 5 and these link to our reading books.

Teach the children in phases across Key Stage One. Teaching assistants deliver some phonics groups, this allows directed, small group teaching to allow the children to make the best progress.

Begin Phase 1 phonics (listening skills etc) during settling sessions and Phase 2 begins once the children have started school full time.

Phonics is taught every day as a set adult let activity but there is phonics continuous provision in EYFS. Each week, phonics sounds learnt at school are shared with parents. Tricky words/spellings are sent home to learn alongside school learning.

Multiple daily story times with the class based on favourite books, linked to topic and books to support wider learning. Year Two have a class reader.

Reading books are sent home weekly. These are linked to their phonics teaching in school. Additional reading book is sent home for parent to read to their child.

Each child is heard read at school weekly by school staff. Some children are heard multiple times each week based on need.

Books are widely available in the classroom (and on the playground at playtimes).

## Phonics Planning

Phonics is planned for weekly by the class teacher, using the previous week's assessments to inform the planning. Class teachers plan for their teaching assistant groups (and will deliver these lesson throughout the term to have an overview). Planning follows the 'Review, Teach, Practice and Apply' format. Planning follows the progression of Schofield and Sims My Letters and Sounds.

## Working with parents

Each week, teachers share via Google Classroom and Tapestry, the learnt phonics sounds and keywords of the week. Spellings are also shared. Each year, parents are invited to a practical workshop meeting with the class teacher to learn about how phonics/early reading is taught, ways to help, resources etc. EYFS – 74% of parents attended. Parents are supported throughout the year with modelling sessions, advice and ideas for their specific needs. Reading and phonics is discussed at parents evening. Mock phonics screening results are shared with Y1 parents.

## Phonics Data

### GLD

21/22 – 83%

20/21 – Nov: 73%

19/20 – Nov: 86%

18/19 – 93%

17/18 – 97%