

Key Stage 1 Phonics

At Healey School phonics is taught throughout EYFS and Key Stage 1 on a daily basis, following the Little Wandle letters and sounds revised scheme.

At Healey School we want all our pupils to meet the requirements of the NC 2014.

The National Curriculum for English (2014) aims to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.

To be able to read, children need to be taught an efficient strategy to decode words.

That strategy is phonics. It is essential that children are actively taught and supported to use phonics as the only approach to decoding. Other strategies must be avoided.

Phonic decoding skills must be practised until children become automatic and fluent reading is established.

Fluent decoding is only one component of reading. Comprehension skills need to be taught to enable children to make sense of what they read, build on what they already know and give them a desire to want to read.

Reading increases children's vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Furthermore, children who read widely and frequently also have more secure general knowledge.

Reading practice sessions at Healey Primary.

Children are given regular opportunities to apply the phonics they have learned by reading fully decodable books. The phonic progression in these books matches the progression of Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised.

Reading practice sessions take place three times a week. Each reading practice session has a clear focus, so that the demands of the session do not overload the children's working memory.

The reading practice sessions have been designed to focus on three key reading skills:

- decoding
- prosody – reading with meaning, stress and intonation
- comprehension – understanding the text.

Organisation

These sessions are well-planned and executed to enable children to become confident readers who read with understanding. The same book is used in each of the three sessions allowing for the children build confidence and fluency.

Independent reading with fully decodable books.

Healey Primary School ensure that children in Key Stage 1 can practice their independent reading with fully decodable books that are matched to their secure phonic knowledge. This enables them to use the GPCs they know to decode the words and, with practise, develop fluency when reading.

It also establishes the habit of using phonics as the route to decoding unknown words, avoiding unreliable guessing strategies.

All our books selected for independent reading practice meet the following points:

- The phonic progression of the decodable books match the phonics progression of Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised.
- The decodable books introduce new GPCs in the same order as the teaching in Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised.
- The progression in the books must be cumulative, so children can practise the GPCs they have already learned in previous lessons.
- The tricky words follow the progression for Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, with each tricky word being taught before the children read a book containing it.

Non-decodable books for sharing

In addition to practising their independent reading with decodable books, it is vital that children experience a wide range of other quality children's books that are either read to or with them. These books play an essential role in developing a love of reading. They can be shared or discussed, and provide a stimulus for other activities, including role play, music, art, dance, writing and storytelling.

The important distinction is that these books are being shared with the children, but they are using fully phonically decodable books to practise their independent reading.