



Intent

At Northowram Primary School we aspire for all our children to become fluent readers and writers; in order to achieve this phonics is taught through a synthetic, systematic and structured phonics programme. We work tirelessly for all of our children to meet and exceed national expectations. Our phonics teaching starts in Nursery and follows a rigorous teaching sequence that allows our children to build on prior learning and master specific phonic strategies as they move through school. This teaching continues through Reception, Year 1 and into Year 2 where appropriate. As a result; our children are able to apply their understanding of letters and sounds to decode a range of words which in turn allows them to read books that are closely matched to their phonic knowledge. We intend for the majority of the children to pass the Phonics screening check at the end of Year 1; if this is not the case for a small number of children, discrete phonics teaching is put in place as preparation for the phonics recheck in Year 2. We also have a strong focus on the development of spoken language and time for talk and discussion; we recognise that speaking and listening skills are crucial for successful reading and writing across the curriculum, but more importantly crucial skills for success in life.

Implementation

At Northowram Primary we have implemented the Ruth Miskin Read Write Inc. programme; a step-by-step scheme that ensures all learners are provided with daily differentiated and engaging phonics, reading and writing lessons. In phonics, we teach children that the letters of the alphabet represent a different sound (grapheme-phoneme correspondence), that these sounds can be used in a variety of combinations and are put together to make words. The children learn to recognise all of the different sounds and combinations that they might see when they are reading or writing. Robust, half termly assessments are used to ensure that children are making at least expected progress and are placed in a group that is matched to their ability. Where children are not making expected progress, children will be placed in an appropriate group and 1:1 tutoring sessions may also be put in place to address this. Staff delivering Read Write Inc lessons will have access to quality training sessions and materials from a Ruth Miskin consultant and access to the Ruth Miskin online portal. Staff will have opportunities to attend coaching sessions and also participate in monitoring and development days to ensure that their teaching is consistent, showing fidelity to the scheme and always to a high standard. Children will take home familiar books to begin with, along with unfamiliar books later in the year that are closely matched to their phonic knowledge. When ready, children in KS1 will access the Read Write Inc Spelling programme which will allow them to revisit and apply their phonic knowledge in a range of spelling activities. In KS2, some children will continue to access Read Write Inc phonics lessons. These children will also continue to take home familiar and unfamiliar books that are closely matched to their phonic knowledge. Other children, in addition to their daily English lessons, may access the Fresh Start programme. The Fresh Start programme is an intervention to support reading and spelling for children in UKS2 that need additional phonics support. Across school, all classrooms will display Speed Sound Charts that will be used as working walls and referred to as necessary during lessons across the curriculum. All staff will use Ruth Miskin letter rhymes to reinforce correct letter formation in spelling and writing activities. Children will be taught letter names for spelling and writing, once their GPC knowledge is secure.

Impact

Children at Northowram Primary are ultimately very successful in phonics, this is reflected in our Phonics Screening Check outcomes at the end of Year One. In 2021/22 95% and in 2022/23 94.3% of our children passed the check at the end of Year One, with the majority of children gaining full or nearly full marks, demonstrating secure phonics knowledge of set 2/3 and those more complex additional sounds. This enables our children to confidently use their phonic knowledge and the strategies that they have been taught to read and spell words. This enables our children to access a range of material and, in turn, fosters a love of reading. By taking home books that are closely matched to their phonic knowledge, children can celebrate reading success with their parents and carers which will give them the confidence and motivation to read regularly. This will have a positive impact on the progress that they make in school and beyond in their wider lives. Children will be able to make phonically plausible attempts at spelling words and therefore communicate their ideas in writing across a range of subjects and for a range of purposes both in and out of school. Based on their phonic knowledge, children can make good spelling choices and spell many words correctly. In short, we aspire for our pupils to;

- read at an age-appropriate level with fluency which enables them to access the broader curriculum.
- develop a lifelong love of reading where they read widely and often with fluency and comprehension.
- Achieve well at EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 assessment points.
- Have the required phonics skills to pass Year 1 phonics screening check.