

Phonics and Early Reading Curriculum Statement

At Herrick Primary School, we are passionate about ensuring all children become confident and enthusiastic readers and writers by teaching our children the core skills of segmenting and blending and to start them on their 'reading journey'. We believe that Little Wandle Letters and Sounds provides the foundations of learning to make the development into fluent reading and writing easier.



We know that speaking and listening are crucial skills for reading and writing in all subjects and value reading as a crucial life skill.

Children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school. As a result, our children are able to tackle any unfamiliar words as they read.

Our aim is that by the time children leave us, they read confidently and are equipped with the tools to tackle unfamiliar vocabulary. We encourage our children to see themselves as readers for both pleasure and purpose.

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. Children are taught how to:

- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes.
- identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'oo'.
- blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

The aim of this page is to give you a clear picture of how we approach the teaching of phonics and word recognition and how, as a parent or carer, you can support and encourage your child at home.

Here's some of the technical vocabulary explained.

Blend(ing) - to draw individual sounds together to pronounce a word, e.g. s-n-a-p

Grapheme - Written representation of the sounds

Phoneme - Smallest unit of speech sounds sh/i/p

Segment(ing) - to split up a word into its individual phonemes in order to spell it

Suffix(es) - a unit of letters such as 'ed' 'ing' that are added to a word to change its meaning e.g. play'ed'