

Finham Primary School & Nursery is a vibrant 'child-centred' learning community that is part of a family of schools in Finham Park Multi Academy Trust. We have based our school ethos on 5 key values that enable our children to be better equipped for today and their future.

Teamwork

Respect

Integrity

Enjoyment

Discipline

Intent

At Finham Primary School, we strive to ensure that all children become successful, fluent readers by the end of Key Stage One. In order to do this, we provide every child with high quality phonics as this plays a key role in children developing word decoding skills.

We ensure that:

- We provide consistent, high quality phonics teaching which is accessed by all children.
- The teaching of synthetic phonics is systematic and progressive throughout Foundation stage and Key Stage One to support phonetic knowledge and understanding.
- Children have secure phonetic knowledge, understanding and skills so that they can decode words confidently and apply this when reading and writing.
- We teach children aural discrimination, phonemic awareness and rhyme to aid reading, writing and spelling development.
- To enable children to use phonic awareness across the curriculum.
- To provide children with strategies to identify and decode 'tricky words'.

These strategies will ensure that children are then able to access the key stage 2 curriculum and beyond.

Implementation

At Finham Primary School, teachers and teaching assistants follow the government approved 'Twinkl Phonics' programme of study. Every lesson has a clear precise structure of **revisit, teach, practise and apply**. This allows for a recapping of previous knowledge and time to embed new learning, this can then be practised and applied in both reading and writing every day. Each phonic lesson will introduce a new phoneme and the learning in that session will help children to embed this knowledge into their memories. Throughout lessons children are also taught how to read and spell tricky words (words that cannot be sounded out e.g. was, you) so that they are confident with these.

At Finham Primary we teach children in whole class groups. This allows all children to access age-appropriate phonics. Children will learn Levels 2 - 4 sounds in Reception with Phase 4 being completed in the Summer. In Year 1 children complete the Level 5 programme. In Year 1 children will also do the Phonic Screening Test which assesses their phonic knowledge and ability to apply sounds to read both real and alien (pseudo) words. In Year 2 children then move onto learning spelling patterns and rules. All children are closely monitored and regularly assessed so that any children who are struggling or who have gaps or misconceptions are identified early and additional support put in place.

Impact

Following this structured approach to teaching synthetic phonics, children will make progress through the different levels in line with year group expectations and make progress from their own individual starting points.

The children at our school will become confident and resilient in tackling unfamiliar words by applying learnt knowledge and skills to segment, blend and read words which are real and 'nonsense'. The aim is that children will demonstrate high levels of engagement in phonics and will apply their phonological

knowledge when reading and writing and use the working walls to assist them when needed but become increasingly independent in this process. Undoubtedly, there will be a huge impact on reading, as children will have an increased recognition of tricky words and high frequency words when reading and apply these when writing. Children with SEND will also develop phonic skills and knowledge and they will develop their ability to apply this across the curriculum which will help to prepare them for the next stage in their education. Children, who at the end of Key Stage 1, may not have 'mastered' their phonic knowledge, will continue to receive extra phonics intervention at least twice a week to support with their reading and spellings.