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Phonics at Green Lane CE Primary School

It is a statutory requirement to teach all primary aged children to read using Systematic Synthetic Phonics.

Schools are advised to use guidance from the Department for Education outlined in their 'Letters and Sounds' document.

This guidance is split into six phases. By the end of Key Stage 1 the majority of children should have completed all six phases of letters and sounds. In general the Early Years Foundation Stage concentrate on phases 1 to 3, Year 1 work on phases 4 and 5 and Year 2 progress to phases 5 and 6, however this does depend on the rate that the children learn. Learning to read is an individual journey and it can take some children longer than others to master each phase.

To support the Letters and Sounds document for the early phases (2 and 3), we have developed our own creative approach. Charley Bear helps the children to read and write at the same rate. The children learn how to say a phoneme (unit of sound) and recognise a phoneme. They also learn how to write the letter. This is called a grapheme.

The children explore each phoneme and grapheme in a creative way using hands on activities such as play dough, paint, pencils and other kinaesthetic activities.

Phases 4 to 6 are taught using the Letters and Sounds Guidance. Staff use a mixture of activities, they mainly take a more formal approach with some hands on activities to allow for the different ways in which children learn - visual, auditory and kinaesthetic (learning by doing).

All staff at Green Lane plan phonics lessons using a standard format. The plan contains the four elements that a high quality phonics lesson should include:

- recap and revisit
- teach
- practice
- apply.

The Senior Leadership Team observe phonic sessions, monitor planning and track pupil progress. At the end of Year 1 children are assessed using the phonic screening test. There has been an upward trend over the last three years and results are above the national average.