

Curriculum Intent - Phonics

At Busill Jones Primary, we strive to create confident and enthusiastic readers. Phonics provides the ability to achieve our passion. Phonics is taught through a structured programme of daily morning sessions within both the Early Years Foundation Stage and Year One. Within these sessions, children are taught whole class, to allow all children to develop their phonological awareness and development in line with their academic year group in order to allow children to excel.

Phonics lessons are well-planned to build upon children's prior learning and introduce appropriate new knowledge in every session with a review and recap lesson on a Friday. All lessons follow the 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' programme, which provides a synthetic approach to teaching children Phonics and ultimately provides the foundations needed for early reading, developing skills needed both during and beyond primary school life.

All members of staff at Busill Jones Primary school are fully trained in the 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' scheme in order to work in harmony to ensure fidelity and allow children to seamlessly apply their Phonetic knowledge no matter the situation. All classrooms and learning spaces in which Phonics takes place have the appropriate and matched resources to the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds SSP, once again ensuring fidelity to the scheme.

As well as daily sessions, children who are off-track are provided with structured intervention – Little Wandle Keep Up sessions are used with children in EYFS and Year 1. When needed, Phonics is also taught to identified children within Year 2 and above through the Little Wandle Rapid Catch-Up scheme. These additional sessions are delivered in line with the Little Wandle guidance and monitored thoroughly through regular assessment (both summative and formative). This therefore ensures gaps within their learning are bridged to allow progress and ultimately allow all children to grow as happy and successful individuals.

Reading practise sessions take place three times a week within EYFS and Year 1 in which children practise reading a book which is matched closely to their phonetic ability (reading at 90% fluency). Within these sessions decoding, comprehension and prosody is focused on and taught. We continue using this model with children in Year 2 and above who are accessing 7+ fully decodable books. At the end of the week, children take home their reading practise book to continue developing fluency.

At Busill Jones, we believe that Phonics and Early Reading is key to creating confident independent readers, who possess skills needed to open a wealth of possibilities to them.