



Mayfield Primary School- Phonics and Reading

Our Approach to the Teaching of Phonics and Reading

Understanding English

English has a prominent place in education and in society. A high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Through reading, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Reading, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society; pupils, therefore, who do not learn to speak, read and write fluently and confidently are effectively disenfranchised.

Phonics Programme

Little Wandle (Letters & Sounds Revised) is used and followed throughout Early Years and Key Stage One. We began following this scheme at Mayfield in 2022, as it is proven to provide a consistent approach, largely impact on children's reading fluency and produce results in the phonics screening check.

Little Wandle Letters draws on the latest research into how children learn best; how to ensure learning stays in children's long-term memory and how best to enable children to apply their learning to become highly competent readers.

Planning and Assessment and Tracking

At Mayfield, we follow Little Wandle's seven features of effective phonics practice. These are:

- Direct teaching in frequent, short bursts.
- Consistency of approach.
- Secure, systematic progression in phonics learning.
- Maintaining pace of learning.
- Providing repeated practice.
- Application of phonics using matched decodable books.
- Early identification of children at risk of falling behind, linked to the provision of effective keep-up support.

Phonics sessions are planned and delivered to ensure an effective and consistent approach is always provided:

- All teachers watch the Little Wandle 'How to' videos.
- All teachers refer to the 'Prompt cards', in preparation for teaching.
- Mayfield has dedicated English and Phonics Leaders, who are responsible for coaching teachers, monitoring provision, gathering data and ensuring that all teachers are trained.
- English lead monitors phonics teaching, with a focus on consistency.

Through the Little Wandle scheme, we are able to ensure early identification of children at risk of falling behind and provide effective keep-up support.

This involves:

- Simple but effective continuous assessment, both informal and formal.
- Regular progress reviews for all children.
- Methods of informal support implemented as soon as necessary.
- Systems for formal support clearly established and implemented as soon as necessary.
- Plans and materials for effective support readily to hand.
- Teacher guides with full support for one-to-one keep-up sessions for children in reception, year 1 and beyond.
- 'how to' videos to support one-to-one and group teaching.
- Templates and weekly grids for daily additional blending practice lessons.
- Six termly assessments for each year group.
- Assessment guides that help teachers identify next steps for teaching, advice on how to fill any gaps in learning, and include links to appropriate.
- Keep-up materials for children who need urgent additional support.

All staff strive to ensure the children make outstanding progress.

The Teaching of Reading

The teaching of reading is an essential part of our school curriculum.

Early Years (Nursery and Reception)

The skills of early reading are taught to the children from the first moment they enter school. An enjoyment of reading is fostered through hearing stories, singing rhymes, making books and taking books home.

Early Years Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1 (EYFS KS1)

Little Wandle (Letters and Sounds Revised) drives the teaching of reading across EYFS and KS1 through the application of phonics to reading using matched decodable books. Children at Mayfield develop their fluency skills by reading fully decodable books that match their secure phonics knowledge. The Little Wandle scheme includes Reading Practice Sessions (guided read) , which ensure children become fluent readers, who understand what they are reading. Reading Practice Sessions are timetabled daily and have a clear focus: decoding, prosody and comprehension. The books that are used during these sessions are very important; books are fully decodable and exactly matched to the Collins Big Cat books. Assessments are used to match the children's secure phonics knowledge in reading words to the right books, so children are successful when they learn to read.

Key Stage 2 (KS2)

In KS2 we work towards children becoming free readers. KS2 children who are still on the reading scheme continue to receive individual reading sessions and intervention. Children who are free reading, initially take a reading test via Accelerated Reader, which provides them with a reading age and book colour. The children then complete book reviews on this same programme, when they have finished each book, and therefore regular assessment of their reading levels and ability is continuous. All free reading school books are organised in conjunction with national Accelerated Reader book band colours, so that children acquire new skills, gain independence and are challenged as they move through the book bands, whilst all genres are covered.

Guided Reading

Early Years Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1 (EYFS KS1)

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Children are exposed to the KS1 reading content domains from as early as nursery. At Mayfield, the reading content domains are represented as our Reading Crayons from EYFS-Y6. For example, children are introduced to Vocabulary Violet (1a) and Retrieval Ruby (1b) in EYFS and this continues to be embedded as they progress throughout KS1. By the time children reach Year 2, they are fully exposed to the KS1 Reading Crayons (content domains) and guided read sessions progress away from the Little Wandle scheme, and the focus shifts to comprehension, once children's reading fluency and stamina is embedded.

Key Stage 2 (KS2)

Since September 2019, KS2 have moved away from the carousel guided reading approach to a whole class guided read. Whole class guided reading sessions mean that children of all attainment bands are immersed in the same high-quality literature and the discussions that these texts promote, whilst still getting the support they need. Books are carefully chosen and where possible closely link to the topic of the half term. All genres are covered, including song lyrics, poetry, instructions - not just fiction books.

Daily guided read sessions are timetabled across KS2, lasting 30 minutes per day. Each week, guided read sessions focus on a specific Read Crayon (content domain) and the skills for answering questions of that domain are taught, using a topic based, high quality class text. Children's independence answering questions of that domain are then assessed once week through our 'Ready, Steady...Read!' assessments, which include an unseen text and specific content domain questions. Interventions are then implemented if children are found to be struggling with any aspect of their reading fluency, stamina or comprehension.

Home/School Reading

At Mayfield, we recognise the vital role that parents play in the development of early reading skills. High quality advice and support can be provided by all staff at Mayfield, so that parents/carers are able to ensure they are supporting their children in the best way possible, to develop their child's reading. Every child, from EYFS-Y6, has a reading book, which is read in school and can then be taken home to share with parents/carers. A home-school reading record is used to encourage links with our families at Mayfield. Our school encourages that parents/carers read with their child every day and that they record this in their child's reading record.

Library book scheme

All children from EYFS-KS1 take home a Little Wandle reading book, which is fully decodable and linked to their phonics teaching sessions in school. The genres are varied, to encourage our children at Mayfield to read a range of books. Each class has a reading area, which has many high-quality reading books available for children to choose from to read in school and at home.

Reading Challenge

The Mayfield Reading Challenge is a challenge whereby we encourage our parents/carers and children to read together every night at home. When the children reach certain milestones (recorded in their Reading Challenge reading record), they are rewarded with medals, certificates, trophies and special trips at the end of the year.

Getting children interested in books from a young age is essential for them to develop a keen interest in reading. Sharing books with families and friends, especially at bedtime, is a key way we can promote this.

School Visits and Visitors

Over the years, we have been visited by local authors, who have led story telling sessions with the children. Similarly, visiting actors and poets have been into school and have brought the written word to life through visually stimulating presentations and performances for our children – all of which help us to promote a love of books and story- telling! More recently, the children have been involved in 'Bringing Books to Life' workshops, which combined reading, movement and drama skills.