

Phonics

Phonics is a crucial part of a child's reading journey and at Beresford, we believe that to help reading development at our school, it should be taught in a fun and stimulating way as this is the most direct way for our children to become skilled readers. Our high quality, systematic phonic scheme is based on 'Letters and Sounds' and it teaches our novice readers:

- Grapheme/phoneme (letter/sound) correspondences in a clearly defined sequence;
- The highly important skill of blending (synthesising) phonemes in order, throughout a word, to read it;
- The skill of segmenting words into constituent phonemes to spell;

That blending and segmenting are reversible processes and is tailored to allow each child daily opportunities to access listening, speaking, reading and writing activities, through a variety of different tasks.

Phonics is taught for twenty minutes each day from Reception to Year 2. Additional intervention through the Rapid Phonics program is used to support some children. In Year 3, each child's phonic knowledge is individually assessed and intervention strategies are put into place for those children below age related expectations.

In Years 3 and 4, we continue to have a 20 minute Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) session every day.

Key Stage 1 Phonics Screening Check

At the end of Year 1, the children will be expected to complete the Phonics Screening check. The purpose of this is to confirm whether individual children have learnt decoding and blending skills to meet an age-appropriate standard. The screening contains 40 words including a combination of real words and nonsense words. We work hard throughout the year to ensure that all children are ready for the check. If your child does not meet the pass mark, they have to re-take the screening in Y2.

Reading

At Beresford Memorial CE First School, we believe that reading is a key life skill. We aim to instil a love of reading in all of our pupils.

Our main reading scheme is the Bug Club reading program which is published by Pearson. In the early stages of this scheme, the books are phonetically decodable. In addition to the hard copies of the books, we also subscribe to their Online Reading World. We have also supplemented our reading resources with more books published by Collins.

We also have colour banded books from other schemes which we use for extra practice for

those children who need to further consolidate their reading skills and who are not yet ready to move on to the next stage.

All children are heard to read each week by adults in school. Children who are below age related expectations (the lowest 20% of each class) are heard to read daily.

Guided reading

From Reception to Year 4 we have 2 guided reading sessions each week. One of these sessions is based one level above the children's reading level. The other session is delivered to mixed ability groups and is based on the half termly high quality text which we study in depth.

Helping your child at home

Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book that comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time at Beresford. It is taught in specific reading and English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too.

Parents can support this 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. Reading to and with your child every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. A report from the Oxford University Press highlighted the importance of parents reading with their children. 'Children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age'.

The report also offers six tips for reading with your child at home, including:

1. Make time to read- even ten minutes a day
2. Choose different types of books
3. Take turns to read
4. Talk about the book- asking your child questions
5. Pay attention to the language
6. Enjoy reading

For more information and tutorials on how to support your child with their reading, go to:

<https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>

How to pronounce pure sounds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

How to blend sounds to real words

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqvgMtSNswo>