



Halesowen CE Primary School Phonics and Reading EYFS and Key Stage 1

At Halesowen C of E we believe the teaching of Synthetic phonics is fundamental to teaching decoding in reading.

We follow the Letters and Sounds programme:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190599/Letters and Sounds - DFES-00281-2007.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190599/Letters_and_Sounds_-_DFES-00281-2007.pdf)

We start teaching phase 1 in our Nursery giving children experiences across the 7 aspects so they improve their listening skills and are able to talk about what they hear. This is the start to discriminating between sounds.

In Reception (or earlier if children are ready) we introduce phase 2. In phase 2 children are ready to match phonemes (sounds) to graphemes (written letters) although we don't use any single scheme we do use some Jolly Phonics actions to help teach these sounds. It is also in this phase that children start to blend sounds together to read and segment to spell.

Children progress through phase 3 where more than one grapheme makes a phoneme e.g. sh, ch, th and also learn phonemes that make long vowel sounds.

Phase 4 is where children begin to read words with adjacent consonants or clusters e.g. sp, gr, tw

Phase 5 is the longest phase and is usually taught across year 1. This is where children learning all the remaining phonemes. Children learn alternate vowel sounds. At the end of Year 1, when children have been taught all of the sounds, they take a phonics check test.

Throughout the Letters and Sounds Programme children also learn tricky words. These are words that cannot be easily decoded using phonics and are better learnt using sight reading. Children also learn the common exception words for Key stage one.

Children at Halesowen C of E in EYFS and Key Stage 1 read books individually, in guided reading groups, as part of text sessions and also share stories. All of these are important to ensure children learn to read and also learn to have a love of reading. We do not use one particular reading scheme but instead book band our books from a number of different schemes. This gives the children variety.

Book Band colour	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
lilac							
pink							
red							
yellow							
blue							
green							
orange							
turquoise							
purple							
gold							
white							
lime							
brown							
grey							
blue (KS2)							
red (KS2)							