

To get children reading and writing accurately we need to teach phonics with a systematic and explicit approach. The way we teach this in England is known as synthetic phonics. The English language has 26 letters but 44 sounds to learn. At Harlyn, we follow the Twinkl phonics scheme and use our own strategies and approach alongside it. The lessons are taught through stories, songs and actions. Through our phonics scheme, we introduce the children to these 44 sounds (phonemes) during different stages of their school life. During each phonics level they will be introduced to new graphemes and they will be encouraged to start blending them to read and segmenting them to write. For example, in Level 3 the children will be introduced to the digraph 'ai'. They will then try to blend words such as r-ai-n to read the word rain and hear the sounds r-ai-n to write the word rain.

Level One (Nursery)

Level 1 phonics is the first of six stages in the Twinkl Phonics programme. Unlike later levels where children will learn all about letters, sounds and the graphemes that represent them, Level 1 focuses on helping children to develop good listening and early speaking skills.

Level 1 encourages children to hear the sounds around them. This level looks at the following aspects:

Environmental Sounds, Instrumental Sounds Body Percussion, Rhythm and Rhyme, Alliteration and Voice Sounds before moving on to blending and segmenting words.

Level Two (Begins in Nursery and continues into Reception)

In this level, the children are introduced to single letters that represent a sound. They begin with 's, a, t, p, i, n'. We teach the children to recognise the different sounds and to be able to blend them to read simple cvc words e.g c-a-t, m-a-n etc.

Children will be taught to read and write high frequency words such as is, in and at and also tricky words that can't be sounded out such as the, go, to, into etc.

The children will do daily phonics sessions that work on the format of recap, teach, practise and apply.

Level 3 (Reception and recapped at the start of Year 1)

More single letter sounds are taught but digraphs (two letters that represent one sound) are now taught during this level. Examples of the new graphemes are 'ai' (as in pain) 'ee' (as in meet) 'oi' (as in coin) 'ow' (as in cow) 'ur' (as in turn). Children will

continue to learn high frequency as well as tricky (common exception words) during this level.

We will also continue to encourage and teach blending (to read) and segmenting (to write).

Level 4 (Reception and then ongoing in Year 1 and 2)

No new sounds are taught in this level. All previously taught sounds are recapped and the focus is on blending and starting to be able to tackle longer and more challenging words. Tricky words and high frequency words will continue to be taught and revised.

Level 5 (Year 1 and recapped along with all levels in Year 2)

Further graphemes for reading are taught in this phase including 'ay' (as in play), 'ir' (as in bird), 'ou' (as in cloud) and 'a-e' (as in plate). Alternative pronunciations are also taught in this level, for example 'g' can be pronounced differently in 'get' and 'giant', 'c' can be pronounced differently in 'circus' and 'cat', 'ow' is pronounced differently in 'cow' and 'flow'.

Level 6 (Year 2 and beyond)

The aim in this level is for children to become fluent readers and accurate spellers. During this level we teach the children suffixes and the appropriate spelling rules. For example, big + er = bigger, carry + ed = carried, bake +ing = baking etc. Children will work on other skills such as continuing to read and spell a large range of tricky words.