

EARLY READING AND WRITING (PHONICS)

At Langstone Infant Academy, we follow the **Letters and Sounds Phonics** programme in Reception and Year 1.

This programme is taught alongside regular shared reading of stories and books, to help instil an early love of reading. Pupils work through phases of learning during 'phonics' lessons, made up of 'revisit, learning, practise and apply'; these take place daily from the start of Reception until the end of Year 1.

There are five phases, each prioritising reading and spelling using synthetic phonics:

Phase 1: Hearing and articulating sounds

Phases 2 and 3: Learning one way of writing (i.e. one grapheme) each sound (phoneme)

Phase 4: Practising blending and segmenting words with clusters of sounds

Phase 5: Learning about alternative graphemes for any given phoneme

As pupils move through the phases of learning, there is a growing emphasis on using a variety of strategies to read and spell words; pupils are strongly encouraged to think about strategies that work for them.

In the summer term of Year 1, pupils are assessed on their ability to read phonetically decodable words up to Phase 5 (e.g. eat, street, donkey). Pupils who do not pass this screening receive subsequent ongoing systematic support in phonics to help close the gap to their peers.