



# Phonics at Tadcaster Primary Academy

At Tadcaster Primary Academy, we recognise that a children's ability to read is essential for full access to all curriculum subjects and a skill that improves a child's life chances. We understand that having a positive attitude to reading and choosing to read have academic, social and emotional benefits for children of all ages.

## Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised – Systematic, Synthetic Phonics Programme

We fully believe that phonics is the only route to decoding and the only way that children can successfully learn to read. Our children are taught phonics and reading through the application of Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised. This is a systematic, synthetic phonics programme that was validated by the Department for Education in July 2021. All teachers and teaching assistants have completed training modules provided by Little Wandle to ensure a whole school understanding of the approach. As a result, the programme is followed with consistency and fidelity across the school with our Phonics and Early Reading Lead, Mr Foster, supporting staff across the school with the implementation of the programme.



## Daily Phonics Lessons

Phonics is the learning and decoding of individual graphemes that represent sounds. This learning is then applied to blend these sounds to form and read words. Through daily lessons and repeated practice, a child's phonic knowledge and skills become more automatic, leading them to become, over time, fluent and competent readers.

## Fully Decodable Books

In conjunction with daily lessons, children must read books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge. These books are carefully and precisely matched to the child's secure phonic ability to ensure a reading fluency level of 90%. This automaticity allows the child to then focus on what they are reading, reading to increase memory and understanding of what they have read. These books are read in school three times a week (each with a different focus: GPC, prosody and comprehension) and are also shared at home with parents and carers.

## Parental Engagement

At Tadcaster Primary Academy, we understand the importance and the positive impact that parents and carers can have on their child's reading and how this can improve the child's confidence and fluency.

Each child is able to practise a decodable book at home as well as a sharing book. Sharing books will be of a higher level than the child's reading ability. Suggestions are shared with parents and carers on how they can best and most effectively support their child's reading at home. Alongside this, we encourage parents and carers to read to their child, even as they grow older, to encourage a love of books as well as developing vocabulary and discussion.

Parents and carers are also encouraged to complete the Home Reading Diary with positive comments about their child's reading at home.

We do, however, understand that parents and carers are busy and cannot always commit to reading regularly with their child at home. We also encourage our children to read with other people at home – an older sibling, reading to a younger sibling, a grandparent or relative.

## Resources for Parents

On the Little Wandle website, there are some excellent resources for parents and carers in the "For Parents" section.

Please do take the time to have a look at these resources following the link below:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Please also see our Phonics and Early Reading Policy for more details:

<https://tadcaster.ebor.academy/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/LS-Phonics-and-early-reading-policy-TPA.pdf>