Reading and Phonics at Mount Hawke Academy

Our phonics teaching is structured using 'Letters and Sounds'. The teaching of phonics is an integral part of our daily curriculum across the school from Foundation Stage to Key Stage 1 and then on into Key Stage 2, where appropriate. Children are regularly assessed on their phonic understanding and grouped according to the phase they are working on. Children have discrete, daily phonics sessions where they are introduced to new phonemes. They can practise and revise previous learning and have plenty of opportunities to apply the knowledge they have using the 'Revise, Teach, Practise and Apply' structure to each phonics session. Both teaching staff and teaching assistants teach phonics in our school to enable smaller, focused groups. Our staff use a range of multisensory strategies to enthuse and engage the children, including the use of interactive whiteboards, games, magnetic letters, speaking and listening, songs, rhymes and practical activities. Children work with pace and are encouraged to apply their knowledge across the curriculum with any reading or writing activities.

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of decoding written letters and spoken sounds. This approach to learning to read encourages children to decode words by sounds, rather than by recognising whole words. In the early years, teaching focuses on synthetic phonics, where words are broken up into the smallest units of sound (phonemes). Children are taught the letters (graphemes) that represent these phonemes and learn to blend them into words. At its simplest, pupils are taught to read the letters in a word like d-o-g, and merge them to pronounce the word dog. But, of course, phonemes can be represented by one, two, three or four letters (for example, 'igh' in 'night'). Please also read our additional information on 'What is Phonics? Extra Information' on our website.

Reading

In Mousehole Class, Year One and Year Two we use books from Oxford University Press to support early reading. Children read daily and are assessed regularly to ensure they are reading appropriate levelled books.