



# MOUNT HAWKE ACADEMY

## Phonics in Reception

- Phonics is basically the way our letters sound.
- We follow the Government scheme Letters and Sounds through the Early Years into Key Stage 1. We use the resources from Phonics Play, Read, Write Inc letter formation and Jolly Phonics actions to support our teaching.
- We start by working on Phase 2 sounds during the Autumn term, moving through the Phases as appropriate.
- It all starts now where we are learning one sound a day: what it looks and sounds like, so we concentrate on the auditory and visual aspect of each sound first. We use the Jolly Phonics big books which have a story attached to each sound and an action to learn to help us to remember each sound. We look for objects that have this sound at the start of a word and how we can hear this sound in other words. The children follow our lead to practise the shape of the letter by sky writing following the Read, Write Inc formation rhyme, so writing the letter really big in the air! They then finger trace on a partner's back to confirm the letter formation on a smaller scale. We finish our session by listening and learning the Jolly Phonics song for the sound. By the end of each session we have used all the styles of learning, which means all types of learners have accessed the new sound in a way that they learn best.
- We then repeat the Phase 2 sounds learnt, but this time concentrating on the formation of the sound using chalks, pencil and other mark making equipment, writing each sound correctly. This is the time we also begin to look at cvc words —consonant, vowel, consonant (cat, dog, pen) in more depth. We will begin to segment (break up the word into single sounds) and blend (put the single sounds back together) to read and write these cvc words.
- There are also a number of High Frequency Words that we have to teach by the end of the year. These have been split into the appropriate Phonic Phases, so will be taught alongside the sounds.
- Each term we will send home, the relevant Phonic Phase Sound Mat and HFW bookmark, to support what your child is learning.
- We begin as a whole class, ensuring all children have received the same teaching input. During the term, there will be a group of children who will be

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# Mount Hawke Academy

Head of School: Miss C Biddick

working securely in their Phase 2 sounds: reading, writing and applying them in their work independently. This group will now learn their Phase 3 Phonics and HFW. There will be a group of children who will not be working securely with their Phase 2 sounds, who will need to repeat them again but in a smaller group. We respond according to the children.

- Every Friday we carry out a phonics check and read with your child on a 1:1 basis. This will be when we make sure the sounds and books coming home are at the appropriate level and supports the home learning.
- Our approach to teaching Phonics is to make it fun but make it relevant, so the children can see its purpose in everyday life.
- With this in mind, recognising letters in their everyday environment is essential. That can be on cereal boxes, sign posts, posters, magazines—simply everywhere! This is where we can support them as parents, to help the children see the importance of phonics. Naturally it also links with their home reading books, which as they move through the Phonics stages, their reading will become more natural and fluent.

Exciting times!!!! The learning curve for the children, as we move through the Phonics stages is vast and can be very exhilarating but also frustrating, as they want to do more than they can at that moment, so us parents need patience!!!! Have fun!!!!

## Websites we use:

Letters and sounds—video clips of how to say each sound and information

Phonics Play— interactive games to revise sounds and a good parent section

Mr Thorne does Phonics—the children love him saying and making sounds and words!

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