



Westfield Infant School Spotlight on Phonics



What is Phonics and how is it taught?

Phonics involves teaching pupils to match the sounds (phonemes) of spoken English with the individual letters (graphemes) of groups of letters (digraphs/trigraphs) and then teaching children to blend the sounds of letters together helping them decode unfamiliar or unknown words by sounding them out.

Phonics is taught daily to all pupils at Westfield Infant school starting in the 1st full time week of school for EYFS pupils.

How do we support all learners to access the subject?

Pupils have many opportunities for repeated learning and practise throughout the Little Wandle Program.

Each classroom has displays supporting pupils at each phase of the program. Pupils also have access to sounds and tricky word mats to support them when writing or reading in all subjects.

Pupils who are working well below the expected level will follow the SEND Little Wandle program.

How do we assess the children's knowledge and understanding in this subject?

We assess pupils every 6 weeks using the Little Wandle assessment. This allows us to track progress of all pupils on a regular basis.

Pupils who need additional support attend 'Keep Up' sessions within the school day. These pupils are tracked every 3 weeks to ensure they are getting the support they need.

How do we involve parents and carers in this subject?

When pupils join us in EYFS we hold a Phonics meeting to Parents/carers at the start of the academic year. In this meeting we share with families how phonics is taught at Westfield Infant School and how parents/carers can support at home.

In Year 1 we hold a Parents/Carers meeting at the start of a new year to share information about the upcoming Phonics Screening Check and again offer parents ideas on how they can support at home.

In the Spring term we offer phonics workshops to parents/carers where they are invited in to school to watch phonics lessons live!

We direct parent/carers through our communication platforms (Dojo and school website) how they can access more information about Little Wandle to the parent's section of their website.

We inform parents/carers about pupils who are getting additional support in school

How do we promote wider opportunities for this subject area?

What opportunities do children have to explore this subject in real life? Think about trips/wider opportunities etc.