



CHILTON FOLIAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1

Phonics and Reading Strategy 2022-2023



With thankfulness, courage and love, we strive to improve heart and mind

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst". John 4:13



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Phonics & Reading

Phonics

Our chosen validated synthetic phonics programme is **Unlocking Letters and Sounds**.

Synthetic Phonics is a way of teaching reading. Children are taught to read letters or groups of letters by saying the sound(s) they represent. Children can then start to read words by blending the sounds together to make a word.

At Chilton Foliat School we begin teaching phonics in the first few weeks of term 1 in **Reception**. We follow a systematic approach where each grapheme is introduced clearly; a focus is placed on blending to read and segmenting to spell; as well as learning the 'Common Exception' words for Phases 2, 3 and 4. This focus provides children with the skills they need to begin to read words, captions and whole sentences to make rapid progress in their reading journey. Children leave Reception being able to apply the phonemes taught within Phase 2, 3 and 4.

[Actions images and handwriting](#)

[Phonics information session for parents](#)

In **Year 1** through Phase 5a, b and c, they learn alternative spellings and pronunciations for the graphemes and additional Common Exception Words. By the end of Year 1 children will have mastered using phonics to decode and blend when reading and segment when spelling. In Year 1 all children are screened using the national Phonics Screening Check.

In **Year 2**, phonics continues to be revisited to ensure mastery of the phonetic code and any child who does not meet age-related expectations will continue to receive support to close identified gaps.

To ensure no child is left behind at any point in the progression, children are regularly assessed and supported to keep up through bespoke 1-1 interventions. These include GPC (Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence) recognition and blending and segmenting interventions. The lowest attaining 20% of pupils are closely monitored to ensure these interventions have an impact.

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Reading Scheme

At Chilton Foliat we promote a 'phonics first' approach and in both our guided reading sessions at school and in the books children take home, texts are very closely matched to a child's current phonics knowledge, so that every child can experience real success in their reading. In these crucial early stages of reading, we primarily use books from **Ransom Reading Stars Phonics and Big Cat for Letters and Sounds**, to ensure complete fidelity to the Unlocking Letters and Sounds progression we follow.

Reading in School

Children practise reading using fully decodable books that are closely matched to their developing phonic level. Reading books are closely matched to the phonics programme and are grouped accordingly.

From the end of Reception, teacher-led guided reading sessions take place weekly in small groups. Children read a carefully selected engaging text over two sessions. The focus of the first session is on the three key components of reading fluency:

- accuracy
- automaticity (rapid recall of whole known words)
- prosody (reading with expression)

The second session returns to the text and challenges the children to explore the content of the book; for example, looking at vocabulary choices, word meaning and retrieving key information.

Once children become fluent readers, a range of books is provided to allow children to engage in more lengthy discussions about the content of the book to deepen their understanding and broaden their vocabulary.

Reading at Home

Children are encouraged to read at home every day. Research shows that children who read daily develop reading fluency at a more rapid rate and become more confident writers.

The books that children take home are fully decodable, are closely matched to their developing phonic level and to the Unlocking Letters and Sounds phonics programme. It is important that the books are fully decodable, not highly decodable or with 'challenging words'.

In **Reception and Year 1**, the children will have two decodable books to take home per week. They are encouraged to read this book multiple times to develop skills in blending, word recognition, fluency and prosody, inference and comprehension.

This will continue in **Year 2** until they reach the point where they no longer need a fully decodable book. This is the point when they have mastered all the above skills and are considered fluent readers.

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A video to support parents with reading at

home: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hhu3xeNq3Kg>



Developing a Love of Reading

We give children the best start we can by teaching them to read as soon as possible so that they can develop a love of reading that will provide them with the skills they need for the future.

Each class has a dedicated book area, which provides children with access to a range of high-quality, engaging texts across a range of genres.

Staff read to children every day to develop a love of reading and expose them further to high-quality literature and a wealth of ambitious vocabulary. Children can clearly see the passion and enthusiasm teachers have when they are reading, which in turn, inspires them to read more or to return to well-loved books.

What is the Year One Phonics Screening Check?

The **phonics screening check** was introduced in 2011-12; it is a short, light-touch assessment to confirm whether individual children have learnt **phonic** decoding to an appropriate standard. It consists of a list of 40 words, half real words and half non-words, which all Year 1 children read to a teacher. It takes place at the end of Year 1 and is a statutory requirement. If children do not pass the phonics screening check in Year 1, they will retake it in Year 2.



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