



Harper Bell

Seventh-day Adventist Primary School

Curriculum: Phonics

At Harper Bell, we take a whole class and group approach to the teaching of phonics. Following the 'Letters and Sounds' document, we ensure that through this systematic and structured approach, all children are supported to learn these key phonetical skills as a foundation of reading.

What is Letters and Sounds?

Letters and Sounds is a phonics resource published by the Department for Education. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting in EYFS (at Harper Bell this would be our reception class).

There are six overlapping phases. Below is a summary based on the Letters and Sounds guidance for Practitioners and Teachers. For more detailed information, visit the Letters and Sounds website.

Phase Phonic Knowledge and Skills

• Phase One (Nursery/Reception)

Activities are divided into seven aspects, including environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and finally oral blending and segmenting.

• Phase Two (Reception) up to 6 weeks

Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each. Blending sounds together to make words. Segmenting words into their separate sounds. Beginning to read simple captions.

•Phase Three (Reception) up to 12 weeks

The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Graphemes such as ch, oo, th representing the remaining phonemes not covered by single letters. Reading captions, sentences and questions. On completion of this phase, children will have learnt the "simple code", i.e. one grapheme for each phoneme in the English language.

•Phase Four (Reception) 4 to 6 weeks

No new grapheme-phoneme correspondences are taught in this phase. Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump.

•Phase Five (Throughout Year 1)

Now we move on to the "complex code". Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know.

•Phase Six (Throughout Year 2 and beyond)

Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters etc.

There are 5 sessions taught per week. Any children requiring additional phonics support in KS2, will be referred to a phonics intervention group or the school's Catch Up programme.