

ALS Phonics, Reading and Writing in the Early Years and Key Stage One.

At Kestrel Mead Primary Academy we follow ALS phonics, reading and writing.

Phonics

The Key Stage One and Early Years staff teach effective phonics sessions that are split into 5 phases.

Phase 1 focusses on everyday sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration and orally segmenting and blending.

Phase 2 focusses on learning all single sounds and how to read and write them in words.

Phase 3 focusses on learning simple digraph and trigraph sounds and applying these to words and sentences for example: igh, oa, ee, ear

Phase 4 focusses on learning adjacent consonants in words for example: fl, gr, sp, tr

Phase 5 focusses on learning alternative digraph and trigraph sounds and applying these to words and sentences for example: ie, oe, ea, a-e

Reading

The staff also teach effective shared reading and guided reading sessions that encourage children to use a range of reading strategies and answer questions about the text.

The strategies we use are:

- Look at the letters, make the sounds and blend the sounds together (cross check with the picture)
- Look for little words in the big word
- If the sentence does not make sense go back and read it again
- Or read the next sentence and read the two together
- I use punctuation to read for meaning (full stop = big breath, comma = little breath, exclamation mark and bold writing = emphasis, question mark = our voice goes up at the end, inverted commas = we change our voice for a character)

The children love reading as a class and in small groups.

They enjoy exploring fiction and non-fiction books and answering a range of questions. The children are also taught to look for evidence in the book by finding a word, sentence or phrase to support an answer they are giving.

Writing

Teachers lead effective and interesting shared writing and guided writing sessions that encourage children to use different writing strategies.

The strategies we use are:

- Say the word, robot the word, write the word
- Say the word, finger the word, write the word
- Listen for little words in the big word

The children enjoy writing in lots of different forms and for a range of purposes. They enjoy learning about how to write different words through the shared writing sessions and sharing their work with others.