

## **How We Teach Phonics**

Phonics is a way to teach children to read and write. It is the ability to hear, identify and manipulate sounds and understand the link between sounds (phoneme) and the way it is written (grapheme).

At Farthinghoe School, we follow the Letters and Sounds Programme (DfES, 2007). This is a structured scheme which takes children through 6 phases of learning throughout EYFS and Key Stage 1; each phase building on the skills and knowledge of the previous phase. The children are taught to identify and blend for reading the 44 sounds of the English language. At the same time, children are taught that there are a number of words in the English language that cannot be decoded phonically. These tricky words are taught using techniques such as speed writing, word building using magnetic letters, flash cards and mnemonics. In addition, we use a range of other materials, including digital resources, to support learning. In particular we use the Read Write Inc. programme to help develop knowledge of initial sounds and correct letter formation.

Children have a daily 15 minute phonics session that focuses on developing speaking, listening reading, writing and spelling skills.

Children's progress is tracked on a termly basis and key words in the form of Speed Words are sent home to help children consolidate their learning.

In addition to this general information, a new parent's meeting is held by the Key Stage 1 coordinator to introduce parents to the scheme and to showcase resources.