

Phonics at Tweedmouth West

Here at Tweedmouth West we have adopted the 'Read Write Inc' Phonics Programme designed by Ruth Miskin. We are dedicated to ensuring that each and every one of our children learns to read with accuracy and confidence. We believe that the Read Write Inc programme allows us to do this, as well as allowing us to support parents in fostering a love of reading in their children that will last a lifetime. At the heart of the programme is the lively and vigorous teaching of synthetic phonics. Children learn the 44 common sounds in the English Language and how to sound-blend words for reading (decoding) at the same time as developing handwriting skills and spelling (encoding). It is a programme designed for children to complete as soon as possible. It begins in Reception and once children are reading at a level 2a they will have completed the programme. All of the children are taught in groups according to their reading ability, for a daily lesson lasting 20 minutes. Each group is led by either a Teacher or Teaching Assistant who has been trained to deliver the programme. The children are continually assessed (every 6 weeks) so that we can ensure that teaching matches their needs, some children will quickly move up the groups whilst others will need time to consolidate what they have learnt before they move onto the next level.

Reading at Tweedmouth West

A child's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all of the time in our classrooms here at Tweedmouth West. It is taught in specific daily reading sessions which we call ERIC (Everyone Reading In Class), but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too. We use different methods of teaching and practising reading such as:
Phonics

- Children learn how to read by using phonics. They also need to recognise and remember those 'tricky words' that cannot be sounded out letter by letter e.g. said or the.
- At six years old (in the Summer Term of Year 1) children sit a statutory 'phonic screening check' to ensure they are making good progress in the basic phonic skills.

Comprehension

- Children also draw on their own experiences (the language and stories they know), the setting of the story and the pictures to help them understand what they are reading about. Comprehension skills are vital in making sense of what the words say and interpreting meaning.

We use various different Reading Schemes here at Tweedmouth West which are used to ensure that our children take steady and progressive

steps towards reading success. We use Read, Write Inc, Big Cat and Usborne First Readers which are very phonic-based for our Reception and Year 1 children. We have recently purchased Project X which is the first literacy programme built to raise boy's achievement. We use this scheme to support our reluctant readers, the cool characters and 3D illustrations have instantly grabbed their attention. As children become more confident readers at Tweedmouth West, they select less from levelled reading schemes and more from the sort of books you find in high street bookshops (real books). These include poetry, stories, plays, comic strips and information books. These both play an important part in building reading stamina and opening children up to many different styles of writing.

Parents are reminded at termly forums and parent consultations to encourage their children to read as much and as widely as possible at home. All of our children have a book bag to keep their take-home reading book in (and other homework). We explain to parents that short daily reading sessions at home can make all the difference to their child's progress.