

Phonics & Early Reading at Ivanhoe



A systematic approach to building secure decoding and early reading

Our approach

At Ivanhoe, we teach phonics systematically so that children develop the knowledge and confidence to decode unfamiliar words accurately and automatically. Phonics is the foundation of early reading but it sits within a wider language-rich curriculum of stories, vocabulary, talk and comprehension.

Our phonics programme

Our main phonics programme is Read Write Inc. (RWI). Fresh Start is used with pupils who require continued support to secure decoding and spelling knowledge beyond the main phonics phase.

FS1 and FS2

- FS1 focuses on communication, listening, attention, vocabulary, songs, rhymes, stories, storytelling and early mark making.
- FS2 develops oral language, storytelling and early composition through Drawing Club and begins RWI phonics at the appropriate point.
- Children encounter high-quality books and repeated stories alongside early literacy teaching.

Years 1 and 2

- Children receive systematic RWI phonics teaching and regular opportunities to practise decoding.
- Books are matched closely to children's developing phonics knowledge where appropriate.
- Children reread to build accuracy, confidence and fluency.
- Common exception/statutory words are taught and revisited.
- Children who do not yet have secure decoding skills receive additional support and continued systematic teaching.

Beyond Year 2

Pupils who need continued support continue with RWI or Fresh Start. They continue to access rich, age-appropriate texts, vocabulary and curriculum content through listening, discussion and supported reading.

How families can help

- Read regularly with your child and encourage them to reread familiar books.
- Listen carefully to the sounds your child is learning and use the pronunciation modelled by school.
- Talk about the meaning of new words and encourage your child to use them.
- Read stories aloud even when your child can read independently.
- Celebrate reading rather than focusing only on whether every word is perfect.

Assessment

Phonics is assessed regularly through the school's RWI assessment processes. The statutory Year 1 Phonics Screening Check is used as required, with pupils who need further support receiving continued teaching and, where appropriate, retaking the check in Year 2.