

Phonics and Reading at Denham Green Academy

Phonics

At Denham Green Academy children in Reception and Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2 follow the synthetic phonics approach, using the Letters and Sounds programme. It is an approach to teaching phonics in which individual letters or letter sounds are blended to form groups of letters or sounds, and those groups are then blended to form complete words.

Letters and Sounds is divided into six phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. There are no big leaps in learning. Children have time to practise and rapidly expand their ability to read and spell words. They are also taught to read and spell tricky words, words with spellings that are unusual or that children have not yet been taught. These include the words *to*, *was*, *said* and *the*. You can't really break the sounds down for such words so it's better to just recognise them.

In the Autumn Term we also have a phonic evening for parents which is an interactive workshop where we teach parents phonics and what happens in a session as well as the correct pronunciation of the sounds.

Please see our guide for parents and carers on our approach to teaching phonics and to learn how you can support your child at home.

Reading

At Denham Green Academy we use a combination of reading schemes through a book banding system which begins in Reception. The children's reading books are from the schemes- Oxford Reading Tree, Floppy's Phonics, Ginn and Rigby Star. These give a variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books to develop children's reading range. Children learn to read at different rates. Once they finish the reading scheme and have read through all of the colours in the book banding system we use, we encourage them to become free readers and choose their own books from the Library.

As well as reading in the academy we encourage all children to read with their parents through our daily reading challenge. All children are asked to read at home every night to an adult and then to get their challenge book signed. All challenge books are checked every morning and at the end of the week the percentage of children who have read every day in their class is announced in our achievement assembly on a Friday.