



THE
WESTCLIFFE
FEDERATION

Phonics



At our Westcliffe Federation schools, from 2022, we have decided to adopt the Twinkl Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programme (SSP) which has been validated by the DfE.

The scheme the Federation has been using over the last year has the fundamental principles of Twinkl phonics already underpinning it. Having the opportunity to adopt Twinkl SSP as our scheme will have huge benefits for the children and the staff.

Why is Twinkl Phonics so effective?

Twinkl Phonics is a DfE validated full systematic, synthetic phonics programme that contains everything needed to deliver phonics teaching to our children from the very beginning of learning to read and write to full fluency. It delivers GPCs (Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence) in a clear and rigorous way so that skills are built progressively over time, ensuring that children have a secure base from which to develop. On top of that, all learning is embedded in the exciting adventures of Kit and Sam and their family and friends so we can be sure that our children will be excited by, and looking forward to, their daily phonics lessons!

Why does Twinkl Phonics follow the same sound pattern as Letters and Sounds?

Twinkl Phonics is a scheme based on Letters and Sounds. It follows the same sounds order throughout Nursery and Reception and through the early weeks of Year 1. Teaching of Phase 5 and 6 GPCs and suffixes have been spread out in Twinkl Phonics to give more even coverage throughout Year 1 and 2. This is to ensure that our children have ample time to secure new learning before moving on to the next sound. All the sounds covered in Phase 5 and 6 of Letters and Sounds are taught during Levels 5 and 6 in Twinkl Phonics so we are assured that our children will reach the same endpoint by the end of Year 2.

The scheme that has been used previously across the Federation was also based on Letters and Sounds and Twinkl resources had been used to support its delivery, so staff and pupils are familiar with the concepts which is great for ongoing continuity.

What reading books can I use with Twinkl Phonics?

Twinkl's fully decodable reading scheme Rhino Readers aligns perfectly with Twinkl Phonics and also features the familiar characters of Kit, Sam and their family and friends that children will have met in their daily phonics lessons. These are available to us online and can be used for whole group reading practice.

We will also combine Twinkl Phonics with the high quality phonic based reading books that we already use in EYFS and Key Stage 1. As Twinkl Phonics is based on Letters and Sounds any reading scheme books that also follow this progression can be used alongside Rhino Readers. We use the Twinkl Phonics overview to ensure correct alignment of our books.

As our children develop their wider reading skills they incorporate more broader text and 'real' books into their reading material which draws on their experience of other reading cues and knowledge.

Does Twinkl Phonics support national curriculum objectives?

Yes. Twinkl Phonics covers all the spelling and grammar objectives for Year 1 and 2 set out in the 2014 national curriculum so the good news is that with Twinkl Phonics we can do not need a separate spelling or grammar scheme. It is all encompassing, which provides a very cohesive approach.

What sort of training do staff have with Twinkl Phonics?

A range of high quality training is available to all staff to ensure that all staff:

- have a firm understanding of the principles behind the Phonic Programme
- can deliver the teaching programme in a highly effective manner
- can help our children apply the learnt knowledge to their reading and writing in the classroom setting.

