



**DARWEN
ST JAMES**

Phonics Introduction

Nurturing ambition through a living faith in English at Darwen St James' is –

Nurture – At Darwen St James' CE Primary Academy, we provide a nurturing environment where every child feels happy, safe, and valued. We believe that communication and literacy are essential life skills. Through our systematic phonics curriculum, we provide high expectations and the exact tools children need to communicate effectively and creatively with the world at large.

Ambition – We aim to promote high standards of literacy by equipping children with a strong command of the spoken and written word. This ambition begins with a heavy focus on physical development and Phase 1 phonics in Nursery, moving to daily Bug Club Phonics sessions in Reception and Key Stage 1, and continuing into Key Stage 2 with targeted interventions and daily boosters for those who need it. We use Phonics Tracker to pinpoint gaps and ensure no child is left behind, alongside phonics mats and other essential resources across the school to support independent learning.

Faith - To ensure children have a successful attitude towards their reading journey, we embrace a growth mindset approach alongside our core values of perseverance, courage, hope, love, and friendship. Our dedicated reading team supports children through their phonics journey, cultivating a safe culture that allows children to have a go, learn from their mistakes, and persevere when things are challenging.

Citizens –Through high-quality phonics teaching, we aim to equip children with the ultimate life skills required to play an active, confident role as local, national, and global citizens. Our staff recognise and proactively break down barriers to learning — including providing specialised support for children with SEND and those learning English as an Additional Language (EAL) — because we know that when students are supported to put in effort, it leads to the highest achievement.