

Phonics

Phonics is an essential part of becoming a reader. **The more fluent a child is in reading and the less they rely on decoding as a strategy, the more working memory they have available for processing and understanding the texts.**

At William de Yaxley, we teach children to decode and spell using the Sounds Write phonics programme. This is a linguistic phonics programme that teaches children sound-spelling correspondences across the four years they are with us. Rather than learning spelling rules, which have many exceptions and contradictions, children learn and apply sound-spelling correspondences (the extended code) in their reading and writing. The linguistic phonics approach looks at the relationship between the spoken language and the written word. Children study three main skills to enable them to learn to read: blending (the skills of blending letters together), segmenting (separating sounds for spelling) and phoneme manipulation (swapping sounds to develop reading accuracy).

Throughout the school, children study etymology (the origin of words), which enables them to discover the meaning of new words and apply their code knowledge.

All teachers receive extensive Sounds Write training to support them to deliver the linguistic phonics lessons. The programme is highly-specified, carefully sequenced and code knowledge is revisited so that it is taught to be remembered.

Phonics is taught to the whole class. Children who need additional support still join in with the whole class sessions. However, teachers also target children in Keep Up and Catch Up sessions with those children who need more than the whole class session.