

Nursery Phonics

At Abbey Primary we follow The Little Wandle Letters and Sounds programme. Little Wandle is an early language programme which builds the foundations for reading. In Nursery we focus on the 'Foundations for Phonics' element of the programme.

Getting started with Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics

Little Wandle Foundations is a comprehensive pre-phonics programme designed to help you build strong foundations for reading in Nursery. It has been developed in a range of settings by our team of Early Years experts and draws on the latest research about how best to prepare three- and four-year-olds to learn to read in Reception. When used as part of your wider provision for Communication and Language, and Literacy it supports children to:

- develop their phonological awareness, including understanding of rhyme, alliteration, syllables, initial and voice sounds, and oral blending
- love stories and rhymes, and learn by heart a bank of familiar favourites
- increase their vocabulary and confidence to talk
- improve their listening and ability to take part in back-and-forth conversations.

We believe that the priority in Nursery should be building the foundations for phonics for all children. This means we work on building our phonemic awareness through tuning into sounds, oral blending and rhyme time. By leaving formal phonics teaching to Reception, and following the 'Foundations', allows more time to work on developing the key skills and behaviours that underpin successful reading.

What will my child/ren learn with Foundations for Phonics?

By following the suggested planning and progression guidance Nursery children learn how to:

- listen carefully to sounds and describe them
- recognise and make rhymes
- identify syllables within words
- identify initial sounds
- understand alliteration
- orally blend and segment
- join in and recite nursery rhymes