



G LORY FARM



The Teaching of Reading and Phonics at Glory Farm School

At Glory Farm School we teach reading in many different ways, but our main focus is on synthetic phonics. Synthetic phonics is an approach to teaching reading and spelling that enables a child to identify, blend and segment the individual 'phonemes' or sounds that combine to form words.

The term 'synthetic phonics' is the method of teaching reading which first teaches the letter sounds and then builds up to blending these sounds together to achieve full pronunciation of whole words. It refers to the direct, systematic and usually swift teaching of the phonic code; blending for reading and segmenting for spelling. The materials and resources that we use to do this are from the phonics programme *Phonics Bug* supplemented by *Letters and Sounds* and *Jolly Phonics*. The children learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letters/letter groups using simple picture prompts and rhymes. These sounds enable children to initially blend the sounds together to read. They do this by reading lively stories featuring words they have learned to sound out. After meaningful discussions led by an adult, children show that they comprehend the stories by answering questions. This is completed within daily Guided Reading sessions.

In *Phonics Bug* we use pure sounds ('m' not 'muh', 's' not 'suh', etc.) so that your child will be able to blend the sounds into words more easily.

Children are grouped across Reception and KS1 into phonics groups with children of a similar ability. They have a phonics session every day - 20 minutes in Reception and 30 minutes in KS1, practising recall of sounds, learning new sounds and applying this learning to reading and spelling.

In Year One, children will complete a Phonics Screening Test. This is a statutory test set by the Government and delivered to all children across the United Kingdom in the same week by a qualified teacher. Children are given 20 words and 20 pseudo-words (nonsense eg thand, strom) made up of the 44 sounds children learn. The results of these tests are published nationally and highlighted to parents at the end of the academic year.

The reading scheme that has been developed at Glory Farm School contains a range of books, including phonically decodeable books, Project X, and colour banded books including Oxford Reading Tree. These books are closely matched to ensure that children's reading improves at an appropriate developmental level.. Your child's teacher will assess your child's reading and match their reading books in accordance to this.

We ask all children across the school to read at home as often as possible. Your child is supplied with a reading diary to ensure home school links.

Every child within our school will be part of a Guided Reading session for 30 minutes at least once a week –Guided Reading is an instructional approach that involves a teacher working with a small group of students who demonstrate similar reading behaviours and can all read similar levels of texts. The text is easy enough for students to read with a teacher's skilful support. Where appropriate, children will also have access to regular 1-1 instructional teaching of reading.

If you have any questions about your child's reading please do not hesitate to speak to their class teacher.

Useful Links to ICT Games to promote Phonics

<http://www.ictgames.com/blendingDragon/index.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/>

<http://www.education.com/games/reading/phonics/>