



## The teaching of Phonics and reading at Rushey Mead Primary school



At Rushey Mead Primary School we follow ALS Phonics programme. ALS Phonics: Letters and Sounds aims to provide a solid and continuous approach to the teaching of a systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programme in Nursery, Reception and KS1. Based on the principles of Letters and Sounds, it offers training, guidance and resources to support schools in the delivery of a successful and complete SSP programme. Tried and tested teaching sequences and mantras are used daily to ensure children have a clear structure to their learning, developing their ability and confidence to decode successfully, building towards becoming independent readers. As noted by the DfE, a strength of the ALS Phonics programme is the guidance provided for supporting the lowest 20% of pupils and the training provision.



Quality first teaching of phonics is at the heart of ALS Phonics: Letters and Sounds and a comprehensive training programme for teachers and support staff forms part of the packages available.



Progression mapping has been created to help teachers to identify the order in which sounds are taught and how to recognise when learning milestones have been achieved.



In addition, the ALS Phonics: Letters and Sounds programme helps to implement consistency in teaching phonics across a school and the structured teaching sequence for each phase is of benefit to both children and staff. Children become familiar with the structure and thus develop confidence in the high expectations which are encouraged. As they progress through the phases the teaching sequence remains very similar with slight adaptations to support the stage of learning and sounds being taught. This familiarity means children can concentrate on embedding past learning and meet new learning without having to adjust a new way of teaching as they encounter more sounds – and delivery remains largely the same whether learning face to face or online.



Phonics is key to paving the way to becoming a proficient reader but is only one, if not the most crucial, piece of the reading jigsaw. Effective shared and guided reading and writing strategies are also crucial to reinforcing the development of literacy in children.

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