

Phonics

Phonics is introduced in Reception, soon after the children settle in September, and continues through to Year 1, and Year 2 where relevant. At Horsley we plan and teach using 'Letters and Sounds'.

Teaching is organised into sequences known as phases. Children begin phase 1 in Reception, and move through the phases in Reception and Year 1. They adopt a 'teach, practice and apply' approach to develop phonetic knowledge and transferable skills. Opportunities to teach phonics alongside handwriting are sought. In order to make phonics fun, staff use a range of practical and online resources, such as 'Jolly Phonics' action songs and 'Phonicsplay.'

Children in Year 1 are required to undertake the Phonics Screening Assessment in June in each academic year. Children who do not meet the required standard receive additional support in Year 2 and retake the assessment. For pupils who need additional support or SEND, phonics interventions are run by support staff.

As children progress through the infants, and beyond, they also learn spelling patterns and develop a knowledge of how to spell key year-related vocabulary.