



Christleton Primary School

Be the best you can be

**Phonics, Spelling
and Reading**

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Phonics

At Christleton Primary School, early reading is taught using synthetic phonics as the main approach to reading. Pupils are systematically taught the phonemes (sounds), how to blend the sounds all through the word for reading, and how to segment the sounds in order to write words. They are taught to use their phonic skills and knowledge as their first approach to reading, but are also taught high frequency words that do not completely follow the phonic rules. We call these 'tricky words'.

The school begins teaching phonics using the 'Letters and Sounds' programme. In reception, multi-sensory Jolly Phonics pictures, songs and actions support this. Phonics Play an online resource is also used.

Spelling

In addition to phonics teaching children from year 1 to year 6 use the Look, Cover, Say, Write, Check approach to learn spellings. In years 1 and 2 'Direct phonics' and 'Support for Spelling' are used. In key stage 2 (years 3-6) teachers use the 'No Nonsense' spelling programme.

Reading Schemes

At Christleton Primary School, all our early reading books are colour banded. Your child will be given a colour band to choose their home reading book from which will help to ensure that the book they select is at the right reading level for them. Every colour band includes books from a range of reading schemes so that your child will experience a range of stories, text types and illustrations. The majority of books within the early book bands can be decoded using phonics skills and knowledge. A range of published schemes used including Rigby Star Phonics, Big Cat Phonics, Fun with Phonics, Floppy Phonics, Phonics Bug, Storyworlds, Oxford Reading Tree, Heinemann Sails, Project X, Rapid Reader and Songbirds are used.

Teachers plan guided reading sessions to teach individual children to become fluent in reading and comprehension skills of inference and deduction. Teachers group the children into small groups according to ability.

When a child has sufficiently developed their reading skills they will be moved from the book banded books onto 'free reads'. Children at this stage are able to choose from a wide range of reading material in our school library.

Reading for Pleasure

At Christleton Primary School, we encourage pupils to develop a love of reading by having a well-stocked library and book selections available in each classroom.

We actively promote the local libraries summer reading scheme and organise events such as extreme reading competitions, World Book Day, and the 'Ten Million Minute Reading challenge'.

Year 6 children take on the role of librarians and promote reading and the love of books through competitions and assemblies.

Within the classroom, high quality texts are used as the basis for planning English teaching and class reads are chosen to provide whole class engagement. Children also start to bring in books from home that link to their personal preferences. School also sends home suggested reading lists and links to useful reading information are posted regularly onto the school twitter feed.