

## Phonics and Reading

At Riders, phonics is taught daily to all children in Early Years and Key Stage One. We use the Letters and Sounds programme to teach the letters of the alphabet and their corresponding sounds. We sometimes use songs and actions from Jolly Phonics to help us remember our sounds.

The children are taught to read words by blending which means saying each sound and then pushing all the sounds together to make a word. We use sound buttons to help the children to blend and read words. The children are taught to spell by segmenting, which means sounding out words and writing down the sounds they can hear. We use phoneme frames to help the children segment the letter sounds and spell the words.

By the end of Early Years children are expected to know all Phase Three sounds. By the end of Year One children are expected to know all Phase Five sounds. By the end of Key Stage One, most children are secure in Phase Six sounds. This phase moves away from learning sounds and focuses on spelling rules and patterns.

At the end of Year One all children in the country are screened for phonics. They have to read 40 real and non-real words. We call non-real words 'alien' words and the children practise reading them every day.

We do not use any one particular reading scheme, but do colour-band our reading books, starting at pink, and working through red, yellow and blue, which are all predominantly 'decodeable', so can be read using learned phonics skills. After 'blue' children read from a variety of schemes, using a wider range of learnt reading strategies.