

Here at Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School we offer a synthetic approach to phonics, which aims to teach reading by breaking up words into their letter sounds before moving on to blending the words into full pronunciation. We teach this through a programme called Letters and Sounds. Letters and Sounds aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read and spell by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting at the age of five, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers and spellers by age seven. Therefore, we teach phonics on a daily basis to all children from Reception to Year 2 in stages called phases. We stream the children into ability groups so that they are offered the most suitable provision possible by being supported and extended appropriately. Furthermore, streaming the children allows the children to be taught in smaller groups, enabling teachers to meet the needs of individuals much more easily. Additionally, we offer an active approach to phonics by providing children with the opportunity to be 'hands on' during their lessons in order to make lessons fun and engaging. Each session will incorporate elements such as games, online tools, competitions, races and even outdoor activities. In our last phonics screening check, the school achieved a higher score than the national average and we believe that this is because the children enjoy their phonics sessions and feel confident in transferring their phonic knowledge into the wider curriculum.