

Key Stage 1 Reading and Phonics at Ashfield Valley Primary School

At Ashfield Valley, we want every child to learn to read really well. We also want every child to enjoy reading. We believe that the ability to read well is a vital skill.

We use a structured reading scheme called Ruth Miskin Literacy to teach early phonics and early reading skills. The children in Reception and in Year 1 work in small groups with teachers and teaching assistants. All the staff have been specially trained to teach phonics, and we have regular refresher training. The children learn all their letter sounds. They learn to blend the sounds into words. The staff make early phonics fun for all the children.

Once they have learnt their letter sounds, they begin work on the Ruth Miskin story books. The children continue to work in groups, where the teaching is matched carefully to their individual needs. They work on reading, writing, spelling and vocabulary activities built around the story books.

Alongside the Ruth Miskin Literacy scheme, the children choose reading books from a range of publishers. These are organised into a colour banded programme, to ensure that the books are carefully graded to support beginning readers. We have chosen an excellent range of books that build on early phonic reading skills so that the children continue to experience success.

Most children succeed quickly with this structured programme. Where children are progressing more slowly, they work individually with a teaching assistant on the "Narrowing the Gap" programme. They receive daily individual support sessions to help them to catch up with their peers.

We help all our parents to understand how we teach reading and phonics. We invite parents to come in to school to watch our literacy lessons. We also hold workshops where we explain to parents how we teach reading. All our parents are invited to Family Literacy classes to improve their own literacy skills, and to find out how the school teaches reading. Parents always enjoy these sessions.