

## **Phonics Teaching at Thomas Jones School**

- Phonics begins in the Nursery and is taught throughout the EYFS and KS1 as whole class teaching sessions. From Year Three and above, phonics is tailored to form a 'recovery' scheme to support those children who may still require discrete teaching of this key skill. This is led by Diana Okello, who takes children out of class for 20 minutes a day, 3 days a week, in small groups or pairs, and consolidates/re-learns key phonic skills and apply this to their reading and writing. Children are highlighted for this initiative from the summer term in Reception and reviewed termly.
- We follow the 'Letters and Sounds' guidance alongside the 'Jolly Phonics' scheme to teach the sounds. The LCP 'Phonic families' scheme is used to teach the alternative sounds in Year 1 and Year 2.
- Phase One of 'Letters and Sounds' is taught in the Nursery throughout the year and taught discretely during the first half term in autumn of Reception. Phases two, three and four are taught throughout the remainder of the Reception year. Throughout Year One, phase four is revisited and phase five is introduced. Phases five and six are taught in Year Two. This enables children to have learnt all the sounds needed to complete the Phonics Screening Check statutory test in Year One (summer term).
- Although we use 'Letters and Sounds', we remain flexible with this and it is 'dipped into' rather than followed rigorously. This enables us to tailor phonics sessions to the community we serve.
- Our home reader scheme ensures that children are sent home weekly with a fully decodable book to revisit and consolidate sounds that they have previously been taught.
- In Reception, parents and carers of Nursery and Reception are invited into school to attend a phonics coffee morning, which focuses on teaching the sounds, demonstrating this to parents and showing them how to assist with segmenting and blending at home. This is a popular coffee morning, and has proved useful to support parents to encourage children's phonics learning at home.

Rachel McCombe

**Last Reviewed: November 2021**