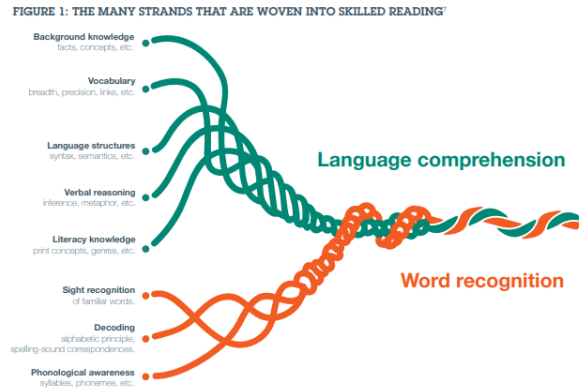




Phonics at Portland

Reading is at the heart of the curriculum at Portland and is underpinned by the Scarborough reading rope. Word recognition is split into 3 separate strands; phonological awareness, decoding and sight recognition, these strands make up the aspects of early reading.



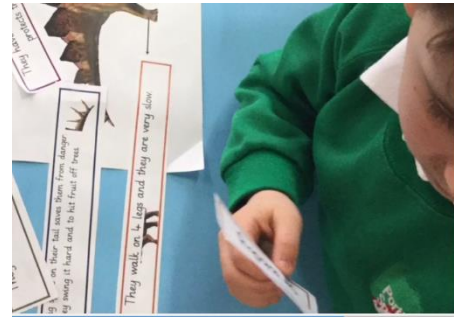
Phonics is the key to early reading and supports children to recognise letters (graphemes) and link them to the sounds they make (phonemes). Phonics enables children to blend and segment sounds to read and spell words accurately. Ultimately, this all helps a child to become a strong, independent early reader so they have become fluent readers and writers and have a love of reading.

Teaching

At Portland we follow a revised version of Letters and Sounds and is taught daily in the Early Years, Year One and Year Two. Additional phonics interventions are implemented for children who require additional support in phonics or in Year Three, who have not passed the phonics screening check. Each phonics session focusses on one sound and children either have a focus of blending to read or segmenting to write. Teaching follows the revisit, teach, practice and apply cycle and is tailored to meet the children's needs.



There is always an opportunity to practice the sound aurally, at word level and sentence level.



All staff have a strong understanding of phonics and undertake regular CPD sessions to refresh and improve their knowledge and teaching of phonics. This ensures that all children get the best support and provision in the teaching and learning of phonics.

Assessment

Children are regularly assessed in phonics to ensure they are progressing and working at the correct phase. Each term the children will use a phonics tracker document to monitor the progress and identify any gaps. Alternate half terms, children in Year One will undertake a mock phonics screening test in preparation for the Government's phonics screening check in June. If a child does not meet the requirements to pass the phonics screening check in Year One, there will be an opportunity for them to retake it in Year Two.

