



English Curriculum

PHONICS

Phonics is taught on a daily basis from Foundation 2 up to Year 2 either through discrete sessions, during reading and writing activities or as part of a small focus group. Phonics teaching continues into Key Stage 2 for those pupils who have not met the expected standard on our school tracking system. We follow a structured programme based on the Letter and Sounds document. Elements of Jolly Phonics are also introduced in Foundation 2, for example, children learn actions for different sounds.

READING

All children follow a banded scheme consisting of a variety of books including Oxford Reading tree, Project X and Treetops. Books are carefully selected to support phonic decoding at the early stages with texts from the Floppy's Phonics and Songbirds series among other titles. Longer texts by key authors are included to develop fluency and stamina for reading. Guided reading sessions take place regularly.

HANDWRITING

We adopt a cursive style of writing at Raeburn. Children are encouraged to use lead in strokes when forming letters in F2 and Year 1 with the aim to join all letters in Year 2 with growing confidence. Children can earn their 'pen licence' when they meet the criteria from Year 3 upwards.

SPELLING

Children learn to write the high frequency and common words linked to Letters and Sounds and The National Curriculum. Children learn spelling patterns associated with the different sounds and then focus on other spelling objectives taken from the national curriculum. Although tests take place regularly, the emphasis is on learning rules and identifying patterns so that they can apply the correct spelling in their written tasks. Children also complete the Single Word Spelling Test to determine their spelling age.