

The Impact of Covid and providing opportunities to catch up.

We've had one full week of school and are in the middle of our second week. What have we noticed? What learning has taken place?

The importance of reading remains a focus for us. Assessments of our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils' phonic knowledge has shown us that pupils retained the knowledge they gained while at school, but have added little new phonic sound knowledge during the time they had at home.

How have the last 6 months impacted the reading progress of our pupils?

For the first time in many years we have many pupils in Year 1 learning curriculum content from Reception. Armed with this information we pulled together a plan which would rapidly enable pupils to catch up to where they would normally be at this stage of their reading development.

We know that our curriculum is well structured and is complemented by expert staff who provide pupils with the daily rigour in teaching needed to accelerate progress and embed phonic knowledge.

Opportunity to catch up

We have recognised that as a temporary measure we need to provide our pupils with additional opportunities to learn to read. To do this we have adjusted the daily timetable for Year 1 pupils. We envisage this adjustment will continue until the end of the term (December 2020).

We'll be reviewing the phonic knowledge of each pupil before October half term. Early comments from staff suggests that this strategy is having a positive impact. We'll be keeping an eye in this, listening to staff and making adjustments where needed.

This is our catch up Year 1 timetable:

08:50	REGISTRATION
09:00	PHONICS LEARNING INTO WRITING LESSON (FIRST SOUND OF THE DAY IS TAUGHT)
10:00	PLAYTIME
10:15	FRUIT AND STORY
10:30	MATHS
11:30	LUNCH
12:15	AFTERNOON REGISTRATION
12:30	TALK FOR WRITING (STORY BOOK LINKED TO TOPIC)
13:00-14:30	ADULT DIRECTED LEARNING STILL COVERING THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM, BUT DELIVERED IN AN EYFS STYLE UNTIL OCTOBER HALF TERM
14:30-14:50	AFTERNOON PHONICS SESSION (FIRST SOUND OF THE DAY IS REVIEWED AND THE SECOND SOUND IS TAUGHT)
14:50-15:10	STORY TIME

If any schools in our region want to talk through provision, timetabling, staffing related to the teaching of phonics, please don't hesitate to contact the Whiteknights English Hub on:

hubadmin@whiteknightsenglishhub.org.uk

We have a team of skilled specialists who will be able to help.

Keep on reading.

