



Campton Lower School

Learning to Read and Write at Campton Lower School

In our Reception class the children are introduced to Sounds–Write, a synthetic phonic programme which is a structured, cumulative, sequential, explicit and code-oriented instructional programme for teaching all children to read and spell.

Sounds-Write is effective in teaching pupils to read, spell and write because it starts from what all children know from a very early age – the sounds of their own language. From there, it takes them in carefully sequenced, incremental steps and teaches them how each of the 44 or so sounds in the English language can be spelt.

It teaches children in the skills necessary to make use of the alphabet code and enabling them to gain the skills for effective reading and spelling:

- segment, or separate sounds in words
- blend, or push sounds together to form words
- manipulate sounds: take sounds out and put sounds into words

Campton provides an opportunity for practising these skills on an everyday basis in specific phonics lessons.

We also use a wide variety of Reading Schemes to ensure breadth of vocabulary and to encourage reading for enjoyment. During the early stages of learning to read, we place a great emphasis on using phonic-based schemes e.g. "Dandelion Readers", "Jelly & Bean" and "Oxford Reading Tree Phonics".

In order to enhance our writing at Campton Lower from Year 1, we follow the Big Writing Adventure scheme which uses the fun concept of the children becoming writing agents working on adventures set for them by interactive writing agents. The programme helps ensure full coverage of the new writing curriculum with grammar, punctuation and vocabulary skills embedded in its stories this has proved to raise the standard of writing whilst making it a fun stimulating way of learning.