



Heron Cross Primary School - Phonics and Early Reading

Intent:

At Heron Cross, we are committed to ensuring that all children become confident, independent readers through a high-quality phonics curriculum. Phonics is taught daily and we follow the Monster Phonics scheme with full fidelity from Nursery to Year 2, providing a structured and systematic approach to phonics teaching. Phonics is embedded across the curriculum in both the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 to reinforce learning and ensure consistency.

Our intent is for all children to develop fluency in reading by the end of Year 2. Monster Phonics offers a comprehensive, synthetic phonics programme that progresses systematically while incorporating multi-sensory techniques to make learning more engaging and memorable. This approach not only supports early reading success but also lays strong foundations for children to build upon as they progress into Key Stage 2.

To support this, we carefully match children's phonics awareness with their reading ability, ensuring that reading books are appropriately selected to reflect their stage of development. Children begin with Monster Phonics reading books, and once they can read these fluently, they move onto the Oxford Owl reading books. For those children in Key Stage 2 who are not yet ready for the Oxford Owl scheme, Monster Phonics books continue to be used to support their reading progression.

Regular, robust assessments are embedded within our approach to identify any gaps in learning, allowing us to implement targeted interventions promptly and effectively. Monster Phonics is also used as part of these targeted interventions, which continue throughout Key Stage 2 to provide ongoing support for phonics and reading, ensuring that all children can achieve their full potential. Through this rigorous and engaging approach, we strive to foster a love of reading and equip every child with the essential skills needed for lifelong literacy success.

