



Tweedmouth Prior Park First School

Phonics – Our Journey

Background

Summer 2018

**Our Year 1 phonics screening check
results stood at 53%**

How can we improve?

Where did we start?

DFE TLIF programme with...



- **Intensive programme for 20 months**
- **Read Write Inc trainer visited our school every month.**

Read Write Inc Phonics programme



Key People



June 2018

- Initial meeting with Debbie
- Reviewed Y1 phonics screening results
- Baseline established - assessed all Reception and Year 1 children using RWInc assessment materials and put data into RWInc portal.
- With Debbie's help we grouped all children ready for September start – all children below where they should have been.
- Assigned staff to groups



September 2018

- **Training day**

all Teachers and Teaching Assistants

- **Focus**

speed sound lessons



Meet Fred...



Teaching spelling using Fred Fingers

We use Fred Fingers to help children sound out words to It means they do not have to memorise lists of spelling words.

It is a tool so they will be able to spell any word.



September to November 2018

- Daily speed sounds lessons - Rec, Y1 , Y2 , 12 Y3 and 1 Y4
- Staff becoming familiar with this part of the programme. Everyone learning together.
- One hour a day - started first day of Autumn Term
- End of September parents invited in to see our new approach to teaching phonics.
- Daily story time – every class has at least one story read to them each day.



CPD for leadership team

- September 18 – training session in London with Ruth Miskin
- 2 sessions for Reading Leader – Darlington
- Importance of weekly coaching sessions
- Importance of one to one tutoring



One-to-one tutoring

‘keep up, not catch up!’

We want to make sure every child learns to read in our school.

Some children need extra practice when learning to read so we teach these children one-to-one for ten minutes every day – on top of their group lesson.

We make sure they ‘keep up’ from the beginning and don’t need ‘catch up’ later on.



Early Years

- Additional training specifically for Nursery
- Focus on Fred Talk – oral blending
- Reception – focus is on Set 1 sounds and words



Staff view

- Unsure
- Some grumbles
- But.....all learning together and from each other (who ever you were , whatever your role)



October - Signs of progress

- Started the first of our half termly assessments (always just before half term)
- Shared data with the rest of our staff - the children had made progress.
- Reviewed data with Debbie and adjusted groups (moved staff around)



November

- Training for all staff – part 2
- Introduced rest of the daily RWInc programme
- Everyone back to feeling they didn't really know what they were doing AND having to fit a lot more into the hour's teaching session
- Day 2 of Reading Leader training – stressed importance of weekly staff coaching



Weekly coaching and One to One

- Planned with Debbie
- Delivered by Caitlin (I took the children so all staff could be released)
- Focused on a small aspect of the teaching programme, using the film clips on the portal
- Also reviewed children's progress – particular focus on bottom 20% in Reception and Y1
- Introduced daily one to one tutoring sessions for these children (TA trained by Debbie)



December 18

- Assessed all children again – progress.
- We assess just before each half term holiday (only CW + DC)
- Children consistently making progress, even the children we didn't think would move forward (e.g. Y2s)
- Reviewed with Debbie and teaching groups adjusted.
- Hard for staff – having to learn a new colour and prepare resources (time given to do this)



Debbie's visits

- Learning walk with Caitlin – all phonics groups
- Coaching via demonstration and / or team teaching
- Setting targets.....and expectations



Preparation for phonics screening check

- Nov, Feb, April – Debbie asked us to do a mock phonics screening check (RWInc resource) so we could see who was on track and who needed additional support.
- Introduced extra whole class session for Y1 in the afternoons (10 – 15 minutes)



Ofsted!

- May 19 – the school was inspected.
- All staff involved in teaching phonics could confidently demonstrate and talk about the programme



June 19

Phonics screening check

- Year 1 = 92%
- Year 2 re-sits = 92%
(2018 pass rate = 53%)
- This year – continuing the programme



Why has the programme been successful?

- Commitment to the RWInc programme + properly resourced
- Reading Leader (CW)
- Ongoing training from Debbie (RWInc)
- Consistency – daily phonics, does not get cancelled, staff who are trained (including new staff) and know what they are doing, regular checking that it's happening and everyone following the RWInc programme accurately (DC/CW)
- The depth of learning – what they know they know very well
- Weekly coaching sessions (CW) – learning together
- Half termly assessments and adjusting teaching groups accordingly.
- One to one tutoring – keep up, not catch up
- Additional short sessions in the afternoon for Y1
- HT who understands the programme and supports



Next steps for our school

- More of the same!
- TLIF programme has just finished so we are buying Debbie in for one visit each term to ensure we stay on track.
- Reading Leader (CW)
- Ensure Reception make a strong start
- Progress of lowest 20%
- Writing – needs more than the RWInc prog so we are now using Power of Reading alongside (separate sessions)
- Training any new staff
- Stay up to date -Whole staff RWInc refresher training every 3 years.

