



Phonics

At Milldown CE Academy we teach the skill of reading and spelling through our daily phonics program, Sounds~Write.

What lessons look like

The structure and simplicity of Sounds~Write makes it a programme accessible to all learners and helps them to make good progress with their reading and spelling.

We explicitly teach the children the 3 skills of:

- blending (putting sounds together to read a word)
- segmenting (breaking a word into sounds to spell)
- phoneme manipulation (sound swapping).

Children in Reception to Year 2 take part in 30 minute lessons daily, where they learn how to read and build words of increasing complexity. Our older children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have a 20 minute Sounds~Write lesson supporting them in developing their reading and spelling as well as exploring the etymology of words. The level of challenge in each year group is carefully considered and reflects the teaching of our English lessons across the school and the objectives set out in the National Curriculum.

Sounds~Write reading books form the core of our reading scheme in Early Years and Year One. These are supplemented by a range of other phonetically decodable books from Dandelions, Songbirds and a selection from Oxford Reading Tree. Children then progress onto our reading scheme where they have access to a variety of texts, which continues to be made up of books from reading schemes as well as books by popular authors.

More information

If you would like to find out more about Sounds~Write and how you can support your child at home there is a fantastic online course for parents run by the Sounds~Write founder, John Walker. This can be found at <https://www.udemy.com/help-your-child-to-read-and-write/learn/v4/overview>