

“Looking at our current Reception data, we predict that our phonics screening check (PSC) results for 2023 will be in the nineties.”

Consistently strong results

Our phonics results have been consistently strong for the last four years and as a result reading progress has accelerated in Key Stage 2. As noted in our recent Ofsted report: ‘A love of reading permeates the whole school... The books pupils read match the sounds they are learning. Most children are well on the way to reading by the end of Year 1’.



Staff are well trained

The teaching sequence for phonics and reading is clear and progressive. All staff understand the programme and how to teach it successfully. Practice is consistent and routines are well established. The online subscription has a positive impact on staff’s continuing professional development as it ensures training needs are met throughout the year. Ofsted commended all staff who teach phonics as being ‘well trained’.

School information

Louise Welsh, Headteacher

Pupils on roll 284

% children on FSM 35%

Ofsted date December 2021

Ofsted rating Good

(previous rating: Requires Improvement)

PSC results 2019 - 88%, 2022 - 86%, 2023 – 89%

First trained by RMT 2019

Swift and precise intervention

Half-termly data analysis means children do not fall behind. We allocate staff as necessary for one-to-one tutoring and targeted intervention is provided swiftly. We look at specific groups and individuals making slower progress and clarify and practise the teaching steps to boost progress. Ofsted noted: ‘Staff carry out daily checks to identify children who are struggling to keep up, and ensure that additional help is quickly given’.

Excellent speaking and listening skills

The Read Write Inc. (RWI) programme helps develop speaking and listening skills and vocabulary through ‘my turn, your turn’ and ‘turn to your partner’. It was noted in our Ofsted report that in the early years, children love to hear and repeat songs, stories and rhymes.

Children love familiarity and routines

The children engage well. They understand the systems and are comfortable with them. Parents find children's progress pleasing. RWI really is a worthwhile programme to choose.

Case Study:

Backworth Park Primary School, Newcastle upon Tyne

Excellent online training

The online subscription has had a positive impact on the school. It's available on demand, is excellent for convenience and for our staff's professional development.

We spot struggling children quickly

We use the half-termly data analytically to drive improvements throughout the school. Ofsted noted that our teachers quickly spot children who are struggling and need more support and that extra help from skilled staff means they rapidly catch up. We have released a higher-level teaching assistant to teach children one-to-one. The support of the RWI trainer with this model has been invaluable. We use the data to inform next steps and to look at groupings, as well as individual progress and attainment.

Motivated children, impressed parents

Children are motivated and engaged with the lessons and the resources and they like the routine and structure. Parents are impressed by the progress children are making in school.

