



Subject overview

Welburn Hall
School

RWI Phonics and Fresh Start

We deliver a consistent and systematic phonics approach at Welburn Hall School and follow Read Write Inc. phonics or Fresh Start programmes. We believe that children should be taught to read easily and utilise fast-paced, rigorous and structured phonics programmes. This helps every child to read and gives teachers the confidence and skills to deliver high quality teaching every day.

Fresh Start provides age-appropriate materials for older struggling readers. It helps to address any gaps and to catch up fast with clear and supportive teaching materials.

As well as being able to read, learners need to have a good understanding. During phonics every child is encouraged to read the text for meaning with three readings for every story. This develops a child's understanding and their ability to read with fluency and expression.

Learners have frequent opportunities to work with a partner and talk together at every stage of the lesson. Children can elaborate and discuss their understanding and ideas. Vocabulary is also a central part of RWI, and it is taught in the context of the stories. The teacher uses the words and phrases, and children are encouraged to use them in talk and in their writing.

However, the scheme is not always suitable for all our learners as some are not phonetic readers, so as professionals, we make the decision as to whether we access 'reading' using another approach.

We have an excellently resourced library, we wholeheartedly promote a love of reading and reading widely for pleasure and enjoyment at school and at home. Children have weekly opportunities to change their library books and look forward to these sessions in their class groups.