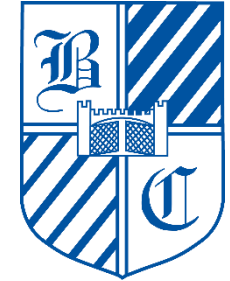


Phonics at Butlers Court



Our Butlers Court family nurtures kind, resilient, ambitious and curious children. Our caring environment supports well-being and self-belief, encouraging everyone to flourish. Through a wide range of experiences and opportunities, every child has the chance to shine, developing a love of learning and prepared for the ever-changing world and a future of possibilities.

Curriculum Intent

We offer all children a broad and exciting curriculum that inspires creativity, builds strong subject knowledge, and makes learning enjoyable and meaningful.

We nurture curiosity and develop essential skills such as problem-solving, communication, and independent thinking through engaging and memorable experiences.

We value every child's voice, encouraging them to express their opinions and take an active role in school life.

Our Values

Resilience

Honesty

Responsibility

Respect

Tolerance

Honesty

Curriculum Intent – We aim to ...

At Butlers Court School, we believe that reading is a vital life skill and a gateway to success across the curriculum. In line with our vision to inspire, nurture, and challenge every child, we see phonics as the key to unlocking the world of reading for all pupils.

We aim to:

- Develop confident, resilient, and independent readers and writers who take pride in their learning
- Consistently deliver a high-quality phonics programme that gives all children the foundations for lifelong reading and writing
- Ensure children access books that closely match their phonic knowledge, enabling success and building confidence
- Identify and support pupils swiftly through regular assessment and targeted interventions to help them keep up and catch up
- Strengthen pupils' knowledge of the alphabetic code so they can read and spell with increasing accuracy and fluency as they move through the school.

Curriculum Implementation – How we achieve this...

We believe that learning to read is fundamental to achieving academic excellence and nurturing lifelong learners. Our reading curriculum is designed to ensure that all pupils have rich and varied opportunities to read for practice, read for meaning, and read for pleasure. High-quality phonics teaching equips children with the essential skills they need to become confident, fluent readers. It forms the foundation of our reading curriculum.

To support our pupils in developing strong phonic awareness and secure blending and decoding skills, we have chosen to use a Department for Education validated programme called Read Write Inc. Phonics (RWI Phonics). This programme follows a structured, synthetic approach to the teaching of phonics, with clearly defined expectations outlined for each term from Reception to Year 2.

Phonics teaching continues into Key Stage 2 for those children who need further support in developing their reading skills. We also use Fresh Start Phonics, a targeted intervention programme, to support older children—particularly in Upper Key Stage 2—so they can become fluent, confident readers. In addition, phonics is used to support the teaching of spelling and is embedded as a key strategy to help children understand and apply spelling patterns.

A Systematic Approach

At Butlers Court School, we follow a structured and consistent approach to phonics teaching in line with our commitment to inspiring, nurturing, and challenging every child. In Early Years and Key Stage 1 we use the Read Write Inc. Phonics (RWI) programme, an effective, systematic synthetic phonics scheme designed to give all pupils the best start in reading and writing. Phonics begins in our Early Years setting, where pupils develop essential speaking and listening skills that lay the foundations for early reading. From Reception through to Year 2, children take part in daily RWI phonics lessons tailored to their stage of development. These sessions include focused activities in reading, writing, spelling, and oral rehearsal, ensuring pupils build strong phonic knowledge and fluency. Throughout the curriculum, the application of phonics is modelled in shared reading and writing. The programme is supported by carefully matched decodable texts, enabling children to practise and apply their skills with confidence and independence. This consistent, engaging approach supports

Access to Appropriate Books

Integrated into the Read Write Inc. Phonics (RWI) programme are high-quality, fully decodable reading books that are carefully matched to the sounds and graphemes pupils are learning. These texts provide essential opportunities for children to apply their growing phonic knowledge in context. Each book is closely aligned with the RWI progression, enabling pupils to practise decoding with accuracy and develop reading fluency and confidence. The use of these purposeful and engaging texts also supports pupils in applying their phonics skills in writing and fosters a love of reading from the earliest stages.

Rigorous Assessment

Rigorous assessment is a key feature of the Read Write Inc. (RWI) Phonics programme. Pupils are assessed every six to eight weeks to ensure they are making expected progress. These assessments enable staff to accurately group children according to their current phonic knowledge and identify any pupils who may need additional support. This targeted approach ensures that teaching is precisely matched to each child's needs and that timely interventions can be put in place to help every pupil keep up and not fall behind.

all pupils in becoming confident, fluent readers who are well-prepared for the next stage of their learning.

Strong Foundations

Our RWI classrooms are language-rich environments where children are immersed in sounds, words and stories from the very beginning.

- Daily phonics sessions include engaging and accessible activities that promote speaking and listening skills, supporting the development of clear articulation and growing vocabulary.
- Each classroom features a welcoming and well-resourced reading area, encouraging children to enjoy books, practise key reading skills independently and foster a love of reading.
- Pupils benefit from high-quality adult interactions throughout the day, where teachers and teaching assistants model precise pronunciation, fluent reading, and a love of language.
- Children engage in daily, structured, adult-led RWI lessons that challenge and support, helping consolidate phonics knowledge and build reading confidence step-by-step.
- Every child has regular access to a wide range of carefully matched RWI storybooks and other high-quality texts that inspire, motivate, and deepen comprehension.
- We group children by phonics stage, ensuring all learners are appropriately supported and challenged, enabling every child to make progress.

Rigorous Practice

- Phonics is taught daily through the *Read Write Inc.* (RWI) programme in structured, focused sessions.
- All lessons explicitly model the strategies and skills needed for decoding, blending, segmenting, and comprehension.
- All teaching staff are fully trained in RWI phonics and supported by high-quality resources, planning materials, and ongoing professional development.
- Every RWI lesson follows a consistent, pacy structure to maximise learning and build daily routine.
- Consistent visual prompts, mnemonics, and phrases (e.g. “Special Friends, Fred Talk, Read the Word”) are used across the school to support memory and continuity.
- Pupils read phonetically decodable RWI books that are precisely matched to their current phonics stage and regularly updated based on assessment.
- Children work independently, in pairs, or within small, targeted RWI groups led by trained adults.
- Opportunities are created across the curriculum for pupils to apply their phonic knowledge in reading and writing tasks.
- Regular assessments ensure children are grouped by ability and make strong progress; they inform targeted teaching, planning, and timely intervention.
- Precision teaching and ‘keep-up not catch-up’ interventions are used to support every child, ensuring no one is left behind on their reading journey.

Support to Keep Up / Catch Up

Children in Reception and KS1 at risk of falling behind are identified through the assessment process. They receive daily 1:1 keep-up sessions alongside the main RWI lesson.

Most children complete the RWI programme by the end of Year 2, but some may need further support. We provide continued phonics teaching for:

- Children who did not pass the Year 1 or 2 Screening Check
- New arrivals with no English
- Children with SEND who find decoding difficult

Support is tailored to each child's needs.

In Years 3-6, support may include:

- **1:1 Precision Teaching** using RWI routines
- **1:1 blending and segmenting** support
- **Small group sessions** focused on sounds, blending and fluency

Phonics Screening Check

Pupils are assessed in the Summer term of Year 1 using a Government statutory assessment tool. This screening check assesses whether pupils are able to use their phonic decoding skills to an age-appropriate level and standard. Pupils are assessed on a 1:1 basis by their class teacher. Pupils who do not meet the pass mark threshold will continue to receive intervention during the summer term and into Year 2. They will retake the phonics screening check in the Summer term of Y2.

SEND and Inclusivity

The content of the curriculum is not reduced for pupils with SEND, rather the manner in which they access the curriculum and produce work related to it, is amended to suit their needs. Any adaptations concentrate on how the content is taught, rather than the content. High expectations exist for all pupils at their own level of understanding.

High Quality CPD

All staff at Butlers Court have access to the *Ruth Miskin Training Portal*, which provides high-quality, up-to-date CPD to support the effective delivery of the RWI phonics programme. In order to lead phonics groups, reading sessions or deliver interventions, staff must complete the full RWI training through the portal. This ensures consistency, fidelity to the programme, and expert delivery across the school.

Curriculum Impact

Impact of RWI Phonics at Butlers Court School

At Butlers Court School, the consistent and rigorous teaching of RWI Phonics ensures that pupils develop the skills needed to read and spell with confidence and accuracy as they move through school. Pupils are able to segment and blend fluently, and as a result, a high proportion of pupils consistently pass the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check. By the end of Year 2 most are well prepared to transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

Books are carefully matched to each child's phonics stage, enabling all pupils to experience success and enjoyment in reading. This personalised approach fosters a strong sense of achievement and nurtures a love of reading for both pleasure and purpose.

By identifying pupils at risk of falling behind early and delivering high-quality, timely interventions, the majority of children become fluent, confident readers by the end of Key Stage 1.

Through RWI Phonics, our pupils see themselves as readers—motivated, capable, and curious—ready to explore texts independently and with joy.