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Dear Parents and Carers,

In Reception at Hawkes Farm Academy, we teach phonics using the Sounds-Write approach. In order to provide you with some information about this approach, below is an overview of the Sounds-Write phonics programme. Also attached is a copy of the leaflet 'A guide for parents of children in reception' for advice on what you can do to support your child's reading development further. You will also find a weekly overview of the sounds that your child will be learning and in what order. You can also log into an online course aimed to further support parents and carers when using the Sounds-Write approach at www.udemy.com/help-your-child-to-read-and-write or access this through the Sounds-Write website www.sounds-write.co.uk

An introduction to Sounds-Write

Sounds-Write is a quality first phonics programme. Its purpose is to provide children with efficient skills in reading, spelling and writing. Sounds-Write is introduced in the Early Years, continued in KS1 and fine-tuned throughout the rest of Key Stage 2.

Sounds-Write and the Department for Education (DfE)

Sounds-Write is acknowledged by the DfE as meeting all its criteria for an effective phonics teaching programme and its highly-rated courses have now been attended by over fifteen thousand classroom practitioners, educational psychologists and members of local authority support teams. The programme is already being used extensively in primary and secondary schools throughout the United Kingdom, as well as in the Irish Republic, Australia, Zambia, the USA and Papua New Guinea.

A highly structured, synthetic phonics programme

Sounds-Write is a structured, multi-sensory, incremental and code-oriented, instructional approach to teaching children to read and spell, providing fast and effective teaching for children at all levels. It teaches all key elements of conceptual understanding, factual knowledge, and the three essential skills of blending, segmenting and phoneme manipulation necessary for learning to read and spell. Sounds-Write sessions are implemented on a daily basis until all children achieve the automaticity that underlies the fluency of every successful reader. Sounds-Write will be taught as a discrete subject, progressing from simple to more complex phonic knowledge and skills and covering all the major sound/spelling correspondences. The alphabetic principle is learnt through engaging young learners in vigorous, interactive and enjoyable phonics activities that are also embedded within a language-rich curriculum.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,

Miss Florides

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