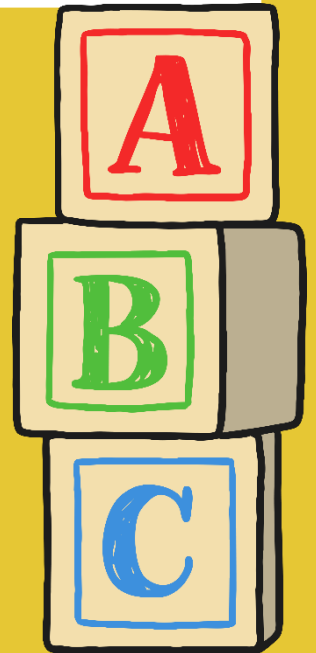


Phonics

A Guide for Parents



Aims

- What is phonics? *Key Definitions - see separate handout
- Why is phonics taught?
- How is phonics taught?
- How do we teach reading?
- How can I support my child's learning at home?

What is Phonics?

Phonics is the link between letters and the sounds they make. It is important that we use the correct terminology with the children.

Phonemes and Graphemes

Phoneme (smallest unit of sound)

Grapheme (the written form of a sound (phoneme) e.g. the sound ai, can be written as ai, ay, a-e and eigh)

c a t h i p

Phonemes are represented by graphemes.



Watch the video to hear how to make the
Phoneme sounds - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ksblMiliA8>

[ksblMiliA8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ksblMiliA8)

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What is Phonics?

Grapheme (the written form of a sound)

Single letters: c, a, t - cat

Digraph: two letter grapheme that makes one sound - 'sh' in shop

Trigraph: Three letter grapheme that makes one sound - 'igh' in night

A phoneme (sound) can be represented by a number of different graphemes. E.g. ee, ea, ey



Why do we teach phonics?

Educational specialists believe phonics is the best way to help children to learn how to read and write.

As a school we follow the Department for Education - Letters and Sounds Phonics resource. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as prepare children for learning to read by developing their Phonics knowledge and skills.

We also use resources from: Jolly Phonics, Ruth Miskin, and Phonics Play in order to make Phonics fun for the children.

When and how do we teach phonics?

Over the week, the children will have four 25 minute phonics lessons (Monday - Thursday, in the morning).

The lesson structure:

- Revisit - Flash cards, phonics fans, games
- Introduce - what we are learning today (new grapheme etc.)
- Teach - read words together
- Practise - children write words
- Apply/Assess - games such as word sort

How do we teach phonics?

Systematic Phonics - 6 phases (learned from Reception through to Year 2)

Reception: Phase 1 - exploring sounds

Reception: Phase 2 - linking sounds to letters - **sat pin** (blend and segment)

Reception: Phase 3 - digraphs and trigraphs - ai, ee, ear

Reception and then recapped in Year 1: Phase 4 - consolidating learning, syllables, - w-i-n-d/m-i-l

How do we teach phonics?

Year 1: Phase 5 - new graphemes, alternative pronunciations, split digraphs: these, like, made

Year 1 and **Year 2:** Phase 6 - different spelling rules

Tricky words (e.g. to, they, she) are learnt in each Phase. These words are 'tricky' because they can not be phonetically decoded. We send home tricky words trucks for you to practise at home.

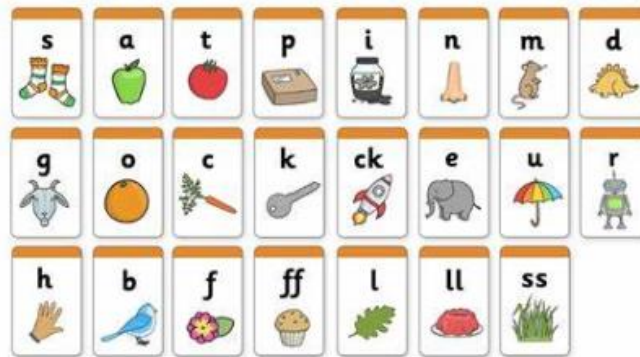
Phase 1

Activities are divided into 7 aspects:

- Environmental sounds
- Instrumental sounds
- Body sounds
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Alliteration
- Voice sounds
- Oral blending and segmenting

Phase 2

- Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each
- Blending sounds together to make words
- Segmenting words into their separate sounds
- Beginning to read simple captions



My Phase 2 Sound Mat

Phase 3

- The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet
- Graphemes such as ch, oo, th
- Reading captions, sentences and questions
- On completion of this phase, children will have learnt the "simple code" - one grapheme for each phoneme in the English language

Phase 4

- Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump
- Begin to learning simple writing rules, e.g. start is 'st' not 'sd'

Phase 5

- “Complex code” - children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways pronouncing with graphemes they already know

Phase 6

- Working on spelling

Year 1 – Why is Phonics important?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June.

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

Reading Books

Initially children will be given a picture book (including no words). This gives children chance to develop confidence in handling books independently, holding the book the correct way round and turning pages one by one. Picture books also help children connect what they observe with how they reason, eventually linking concepts with words.

Once we have learnt some Phase 2 Phonics we will give children reading books with some words for them to practise their segmenting and blending skills.

How do we teach Reading?

- Individual reading
- Guided reading
- Reading during Phonics
- Cross curricular
- Boost sessions
- Challenge areas
- Tricky words
- Flash cards

VIPERS

When you read with your child, try and ask them questions to check their understanding.

- VIPERS
 - Vocabulary
 - Inference
 - Prediction
 - Explain
 - Retrieve
 - Sequence

(see separate hand out for examples question strands)

Reading Raffle

- To promote reading across Key Stage 1 we carry out a Reading Raffle. Your child needs to read 5 times over a 7 day period in order to enter the reading raffle on a Friday.
- A prize will be given every Friday!
- Your child has a reading diary which goes home in their bookbag. This needs to be filled in for your child to be entered into the Reading Raffle!

How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Encourage and praise - get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right. Repeat until they can hear the word.
- Practise reading and writing flash cards and tricky words
- www.phonicsplay.co.uk