

Phonics for Parents

Welcome!



Everything starts with
reading



Being able to read is the most important skill children will learn during their early schooling and has far-reaching implications for lifelong confidence and well-being.

('Letters and Sounds' Principles and Practice of High Quality Phonics)

The Rose Review

- The independent review of early reading, conducted by Jim Rose, confirmed that 'high quality phonic work' should be the prime means for teaching beginner readers to learn to read (and spell).
- The review also highlighted the importance of developing, from the earliest stages, children's speaking and listening skills - ensuring that beginner readers are ready to get off to a good start in phonic work.

What is phonics?

Phonics is the link between letters and the sounds they make.

Using a highly structured programme working through 6 progressive phases, children are taught:

- The full range of common letter/ sound correspondences.
- To hear separate sounds within words.
 - To blend sounds together.

What are speech sounds?

Although there are 26 letters
in the English alphabet,
there are more than 40
speech sounds.

Letters and sounds DVD

Some definitions

Phoneme - The smallest unit of sound in a word.

Grapheme - What we write to represent a sound/ phoneme - for some phonemes, this could be more than one letter.

e.g. t ai igh

Oral Blending

Hearing a series of spoken sounds and merging (blending) them together to make a spoken word - no text is used.

For example, when a teacher calls out /b/u/s/, the children say bus.

The skill is usually taught before blending using printed words.

Blending

Recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example c- u- p, and blending them in the order which they are written, to read the word 'cup'

s i t
• • •

l e g
• • •

m o p
• • •

c a n
• • •

f i t
• • •

Digraph

Two letters which make one sound.

A consonant digraph contains two consonants next to each other, but they make a single sound.

e.g. sh, ck, th, ll

A vowel digraph contains at least one vowel but the two letters still make a single sound

e.g. ai ee ar oy

Examples of consonant digraphs

ll	ss	ff	zz
hill	mess	puff	fizz

sh	ch	th
ship	chat	thin

ck	ng	qu
chick	sing	quick

Examples of vowel digraphs

(Vowel digraphs need to contain at least one vowel and make one sound.)

ai

rain

ee

meet

igh

might

oa

coat

oo

zoo

book

ar

car

or

for

ur

burn

ow

cow

blow

oi

coin

ch i ll
— ● —

f or t
● — ●

d u ck
● ● —

th a t
— ● ●

w ai t
● — ●

sh e d
— ● ●

Trigraph

Three letters, which make one sound.

e.g. s igh t f ear ch air

t

i

n

sh

i

p

wet

sop

w

e

n

t

s

t

o

p

Word	Phonemes					
shelf	sh	e	l	f		
dress	d	r	e	ss		
think	th	i	n	k		
string	s	t	r	i	ng	
sprint	s	p	r	i	n	t
flick	f	l	i	ck		

Some words are more difficult to sound out and blend - children need to have understanding of the phoneme/ grapheme correspondences.

Some words can not be sounded out or blended and need to be recognised as a whole e.g.

said the eyes

These are taught as tricky words.

Children develop their ability to do this over time.

Children develop their own way of remembering these words.

How is phonics organised in our school?

- In Reception children are taught in small groups across the two classes.
- In Years 1 and 2 children are grouped according to their phonics skills. They may work with children who are older or younger than them.
- In Years 3 and 4 phonics booster groups are taught for pupils who have not completed the phases.

Phonics Homework

- This is something new we have tried this year in Years 1 and 2.
- Instead of weekly spelling tests we now set weekly homework tasks based on the phonemes your child is working on in their group.
- Your child has a week to complete the task, it then needs to be returned to their phonics teacher.
- We would welcome any feedback at Parents Evening.