

Phonics into Reading

September 2022



Phonics simply means sounds

- To read, children need to understand that sounds are represented by letters
- A phoneme can be represented by more than 1 letter (A = ai= ay = a-e)
- We have 44 phonemes in the English language but only 26 letters
- We use Letters and Sounds which is a programme separated into phases.



- Children need to hear the individual sounds in the word (segmenting)
- Then they need to be able to put the letter sounds together to say a word (blending)
- Schools follow a programme called Letters and Sounds - 6 phases - Reception cover phases 2-4. We use this programme alongside Jolly Phonics and Phonics Play.
- If you are unsure how to model the sounds to your child search for pronunciation of phase 2 sounds.



Letters & Sounds

- We are currently working on Phase 2 which introduces the first 21 sounds
- Children need to recognise letters by sight and say the sound instantly
- They need to manipulate letters to form words
- We teach the children the Jolly Phonics songs & actions to help them remember the sounds.
- We are going to begin to learn some of the High Frequency words e.g. the, to, and



High Frequency Words



- These will begin with words that are easy to sound out and spell e.g. in , at, on
- Children need to be able to recognise the sound that goes with the letter and blend them together to form the word
- Some words will be 'tricky' and these cannot be sounded out - they need to be learned by sight e.g. the, to
- The Phase 2 Tricky Word songs online are a great way of remembering those difficult words.

Other Phases

- Phase 3 - sounds that are represented by more than 1 letter
- Phase 4 - children learn to decode new words using the skills and phonemes that they have already learned and make quick sounds eg - br, gr and bl.
- Assessment - if children haven't grasped the basics yet then we continue to teach the next phase to the whole class but target and provide additional phonics from phase 2 to help bridge the gap.
- Important that children constantly revise the sounds

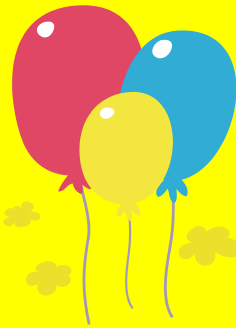


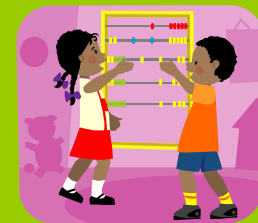


Make it fun!



- Lead and read by example
- If they see you reading then they will see reading as important
- Read to your child and talk about the book - discuss what could happen next - let them join in familiar words that are repeated
- Reading from memory at this stage is OK
- Let them have a go and don't prompt too quickly
- Spot words and sounds in the environment





- Use the pictures for clues
- Re-read the sentence
- Don't let them struggle for too long - give them clues
- Make reading & sharing books a time that they will enjoy - feel that they can succeed!
- Confidence - focus on praise rather than criticism
- We need to guide them and work together to learn
- Books shouldn't be particularly challenging at this stage - they should enable the child to read fluently and the discussion about it's content and context is more important.



Reading Folders and Homework

- Your child will have 2 reading books each week. They will be heard to read by the teacher or teaching assistant at least once every week and their books changed. We will send feedback about how your child has read in their yellow book. Please reply to let us know how your child is getting on with their new books.
- Each week we will see how your child is getting on with learning the High Frequency Word Sheets and letter wall. The high frequency word sheets are split into phases. Once your child completes a sheet they will be rewarded with a greenie for all their hard work.

Reading Days

- Monday: Hippos
- Tuesday: Giraffes
- Wednesday: Zebras
- Thursday: Elephants
- Friday: Lions

Please ensure that they bring their reading folder into school every day

Online Activities

- There are some great phonic activities that you could watch with your child to help them learn the Phase 2 phonemes and high frequency words. They will recognise some of these from watching them in their Phonic lessons. Links to these activities are below and can be found in 'Reception Learning at Home' that's included in the Early Years section of the school website:

- Phase 2 tricky word songs
- Phonic Play (choose phase 2 games)
- Jolly Phonics Phase 2 songs
- Alphablock Cbeebies programmes & activities
- Phonics Bloom