Phonics - what is this?

Welcome!

- To provide an overview of phonics
- To share how we teach phonics in school using Phonics Bug
- To provide ideas for support with phonics and reading

What Is Phonics?

Phonics is a method for teaching reading and writing.

It develops phonemic awareness – the ability to hear, recognise and use the sounds within words.

Learners are also taught the correspondence between sounds (phonemes) and the spelling patterns (graphemes) that represent them.

What Is Phonics?

Phonics is currently the main way in which children in British primary schools are taught to read in their earliest years.

Children are also be taught other skills, such as whole-word recognition ('tricky words'), book skills and a love and enjoyment of reading.

Phonics at a glance

Phonics is…

Knowledge of the alphabetic code.

+

Skills of segmentation and blending

Did You Know…?

The English language has:

26 letters

44 sounds

over 100 ways to spell those sounds

It is one of the most complex languages to learn to read and spell.

A Phoneme

This is the smallest unit of sound in a word.

How many phonemes can you hear in cat?

A Grapheme

These are the letter/s that represent the phoneme

Children need to practise recognising the grapheme and saying the phoneme that it represents.

This is where it gets tricky!

- Phonemes are represented by graphemes.
- A grapheme can consist of 1, 2 or more letters.
- A phoneme can be represented/spelled in more than one way (cat, kennel, choir)
- The same grapheme may represent more than one phoneme (me, met)

Unit 1 s sat a at t tap p pat
Unit 2 i pip n nan m map d did
Unit 3 g get o on c cat k kid
Unit 4 ck sock e ten u nut r rat
Unit 5 h hat b big f fin ff puff l leg ll bell ss moss
Unit 6 j jog v van w web x box
Unit 7 y yes z zip zz fizz qu quiz
Unit 8 ch chop sh ship th cloth th them ng hang
Unit 9 ai rain ee peel igh night oa coat oo book oo moon
Unit 10 ar jar or born ur surf ow cow oi soil
Unit 11 ear hear air pair ure cure er sister
Unit 13 wh whip ph dolphin
Unit 14 ay spray a-e plate eigh weigh ey they ei reins
Unit 15 ea seat e-e these ie brief ey hockey y very
Unit 16 ie pie i-e slide y fly i wild
Unit 17 ow snow o-e phone o both oe toe
Unit 18 ew screw ue glue u-e cute

Blending –

a key skill for reading

Recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example:

c – u - p

and then synthesising or 'blending' them in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word 'cup'.

Segmenting –
a key skill for writing

- 'Chopping up' the word to spell it out
- The opposite of blending
- Identifying the individual sounds in a spoken word (e.g. h-i-m , s-t-or-k) and writing down letters for each sound (phoneme) to form the word.

Once children are good with single phonemes…

s a t i l c

DIGRAPHS – 2 letters that make 1 sound

ll ss zz oa ai

TRIGRAPHS – 3 letters that make 1 sound

igh ure

Segmenting and Sound Buttons

Using 'sound buttons' helps us to see many phonemes are in each word.

shelf = sh – e – l – f = 4 phonemes

dress = d - r - e – ss = 4 phonemes

sprint = s – p – r – i – n – t = 6 phonemes

string = s – t – r – i – ng = 5 phonemes

Then we have……
Tricky Words

Words that are not phonically decodeable

e.g. was, the,

Some are 'tricky' to start with but will become decodeable once we have learned the harder phonemes

e.g. out, there

Lesson format

In each year group, phonic lessons follow the same format:

- Revise: The children will revise previous learning.
- Teach: New phonemes or high frequency or tricky words will be taught.
- Practise: The children will practise the new learning by reading and/or writing the words.
- Apply: The children will apply their new learning by reading or writing sentences.

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What does quality phonics learning look like in school?

- Daily
- Pace
- Inclusive
- Clear and correct pronunciation of phonemes
- Timely and appropriate feedback
- Consistency of vocabulary eg sound buttons, split digraphs, phonemes, graphemes letter names etc.

Phonics Bug

Unit 14 /ai/ as 'a-e': Lesson

Guide

Back

Exit

Sounds | Reading | Spelling | Writing | Follow-up

Blend

Undo

ape

a p e

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Phonics Check

In June, Year 1 children are expected to complete the Year 1 phonics screening check.

The aim is to check that a child is making progress in phonics.

Read a mixture of real words and 'nonsense' words.

Additional support to help the child to make progress in Year 2 if they don't pass.

It is important to remember that this Year 1 Phonics check does not give a well-rounded picture of your child's reading ability.

Your child's teacher will have a much better understanding of your child's reading ability.

Section 2

brend

throst

stret

spraw

label

vanish

blossom

thankful

So ……
how can I help?

- Reading! Be a role model. Use lots of different types of books.
- Talk, talk, talk. Let your child hear and say new words.
- Sing songs, rhymes, nursery rhymes.
- Play games such as **'I spy'**
- Play with magnetic letters, using some two-grapheme (letter) combinations, eg: ***r-ai-n = rain*** blending for reading

  rain = r-ai-n segmenting for spelling
- Spot graphemes in books
- Help your child learn the tricky words by playing games eg. pairs
- Play pairs with words and pictures
- Use the internet and games/apps
- Join the library

Online Reading

In addition to the reading books that are sent home, we will also be sending home a log in to the Pearson Bug Club (the scheme we use daily in school).

You can log in to read online books or play games that have been assigned by your class teacher.

We can share the phonics videos with you.

REMEMBER: Phonics is not the only thing needed to become a fluent reader and writer.

Please continue/start to read with your child each night and encourage them to:

- Sound out
- Re-read to check it makes sense.
- Use pictures for clues.
- Ask questions and talk about the book.

And most importantly ENJOY READING!

Time for a lesson....

Any Questions?