



# Phonics

Welcome to beginner's  
phonics

# Aims

- To introduce the main features of our phonics programme
- To give advice on how best to support your child at home in the early stages of reading and writing
- To work together in teaching your child to read and write

# Phonics

- Phonics is one method we use to teach children to read and write
- It gives them the tools to break words down into their sounds and blend these together to read or write
- We use Jolly phonics and Letters and Sounds as teaching tools
- It is taught everyday for 20 minutes and all children are taught according to their year group - with follow up sessions if needed

# Phase 1

- During phase 1 of Letters and Sounds children build their phonemic awareness through different games
- They practise listening for sounds in the environment, playing and hearing sounds using musical instruments and taking part in rhyming stories and nursery rhymes.

# How you can help

- Read lots of stories including rhyming ones to your child
- Sing nursery rhymes with your child
- Clap rhythms and ask your child to copy them
- Play with words – make up silly rhymes together
- Listen for sounds in the environment

## Phase 2

During phase 2 children are introduced to a progressive sequence of phonemes/graphemes

s a t p i n m d g o c k ck e u r h b f,ff , ll

We teach each phoneme (sound) using a gesture as well as the sound. Children learn to write the grapheme (both capital letter and lower case) and they practise finding words that begin with that sound.

# Phase 3

j,v,w,x

y,z,zz,qu

Digraphs: ch, sh, th, ng, oo, oa, ow, ee, ai,  
ar, oi, ur, or, ir, er

Split digraphs: a-e, o-e, i-e, u-e, e-e

Trigraphs: ear, air, igh,

We also make sure children know the names of the letters as well as the sounds.

# Tricky words

- Tricky words are words that usually cannot be decoded using synthetic phonics so they are taught as sight words.
- During each phase the children are introduced to some tricky words which they have to learn how to read and write.



# Word houses

- We will give each child a word house to take home which will help you support your child to learn and recognise the tricky/HF words.
- We expect most children to know word house 1 by Christmas – reading all the words by sight and writing some of them too
- The word houses become progressively more difficult and there are 5 altogether which will be taught through Reception and year 1

Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
is it in at and to the no go I	we all me be he she was they her are my you	by said so like some come have were little there one do when out what	people could (would, should) looked Mr Mrs also called asked water where who again because laughed Friends once good how did

# High Frequency words

These are words that appear most frequently in written English.

Children will encounter them in their reading books and will need to use them in their writing.

Some of them can be decoded but some need to be learnt as tricky words (the word houses will have a mixture of these).

# Using the internet to support learning at home

Here is a selection of good websites to help you support your child at home:

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

[http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics\\_games.html](http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html)

[http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kentict/content/games/phaseThreeAS1\\_v2.html](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kentict/content/games/phaseThreeAS1_v2.html)

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/home/reading-owl/reading>

# Glossary !

**Grapheme:** the written form of the letter

**Phoneme:** the sound the grapheme(s) make

**Digraph:** a phoneme made of 2 graphemes e.g. **ee** as in  
feet

**Trigraph:** a phoneme made of 3 graphemes, e.g. **igh** as in  
light

**Segment:** the art of breaking a word up into its smallest  
sounds (or phonemes)

**Blend:** putting the sounds back together to make a word

