

Introduction to phonics

Parents Workshop

The English language and its history is very complex, hence learning to read is too. Phonics is here to help with the ultimate goal being able to read all words, decodable and tricky automatically. There are 44 sounds in the English language and 144 ways of writing them.

Phonics	Phonics teaches children to listen to and identify the sounds that make up words. This helps them to read and write words.
Letters and Sounds	<p>This is the Government phonics programme that we as a school follow. There are six phases in total:</p> <p><u>Typically started at home and at nursery:</u> Phase 1: Main focus on hearing and talking about environment sounds and letter sounds.</p> <p><u>Typically taught in Reception:</u> Phase 2: Learning 19 letters of the alphabet, along with the first 5 tricky words and using them to read and spell simple words and captions.</p> <p>Phase 3: Learning the remaining letters of the alphabet, some 2 and 3 letter digraphs, along with the next set of tricky words. Reading and writing captions and sentences.</p> <p><u>Typically taught in Reception and reviewed in Year 1:</u> Phase 4: Learning to blend and segment longer words. Reading and writing using these and the next tricky words within sentences.</p> <p><u>Typically taught in Year 1:</u> Phase 5: Learning alternative spellings and pronunciations for phonemes, including their common usage within words. Reading and writing using these and the next 'tricky words' within sentences.</p> <p><u>Typically taught in Year 2:</u> Phase 6: Learning longer words and spellings rules.</p>

Read Write Inc resources	As a school we use the visual Read Write Inc resources and mnemonics i.e. flash cards and borders as a teaching aid.
Blend	Saying the individual sounds that make up a word and then merging or blending the sounds together to say the word – used when reading.
Segment	This is the opposite of blending. Splitting a word up into individual sounds, when spelling and writing.
Consonant	Most letters of the alphabet (excluding the vowels: a,e,i,o,u)
Vowel	The letters a,e,i,o,u
Phoneme	A single sound that can be made of one or more letters i.e. ss s, ck c k, z zz, ll, ph, igh, er, or.
Grapheme	Written letters or a group of letters which represent one single sound (phoneme) e.g. a, l, sh, air, ck, igh.
Digraph	Two letters which together make one sound e.g. ee, oa, ea, ch, ay. There are different types of digraph: Vowel digraph: a digraph in which at least one of the letters is a vowel, for example; boat or day. Consonant digraph: two consonants which can go together, for example shop or thin. Split digraph (previously called magic e): two letters, which work as a pair to make one sound, but are separated within the word e.g. a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e. For example cake or pine.
Trigraph	Three letters which go together to make one sound e.g. igh, ear, air, dge, tch.

CVC words	<p>Abbreviation used for consonant-vowel-consonant words, used to describe the order of sounds. Some examples of CVC words are: cat, pen, top, chat (because ch makes one sound).</p> <p>Other similar abbreviations include:</p> <p>VC words e.g. on, is, it.</p> <p>CCVC words e.g. trap and black.</p> <p>CVCC words e.g. milk and fast.</p>
Super Power Words	<p>Also known as Tricky Words, are words that cannot be phonetically sounded out i.e. was, the, said, he, she, be, we, because.</p>

Sounds and how they are pronounced within words
and Super Power Words (in the order they are generally taught)

Sound	Examples of words using the sound
Phase 2	
s	snake, six, seven, sat, sip, sack, sorry
a	apple, ant, add
t	tower, tap, ten, toe,
p	pirate, pen, paper, pencil, plus
i	ink, in, insect, include
n	net, nice, nine
m	mountain, Mum, more, month
d	Dad, doctor, dentist, door, dog
g	girl, good, gold,
o	orange, octopus, octagon
c	caterpillar, cat, catch, dick
k	kangaroo, kick,
ck	dick, sock, Jack,
e	egg, excellent,
u	umbrella, under
r	robot, rabbit, rush, run
h	horse, hat, house
b	boot, back, basket

f, ff	flower, four, five, full, forest, fluff
l, ll	leg, lollipop, yell,
ss	mess, fuss
	Within Phase 2 Super Power Words the, to, no, go, I and High Frequency Word 'and' are taught.
Phase 3	
j	jelly, jug,
v	van, vet, vulture
w	worm, wet, water
x	exercise, x-ray
y	yellow, yacht, yap, yes, yet
z, zz	zest, zing, buzz
qu	queen, quiz, quiet
ch	church, chip, chocolate, chin
sh	shush, shop, ship, cash, rash
th	thank (you), three, thirteen
ng	thing, string, sing, sang, pong
ai	rain, snail, tail, sail, chain, paint, train, stain
ee	tree, see, been, seen, keep, sleep, feel, cheep, sheet, meet
igh	high, night, might, sight
oa	boat, coat, goat, cloak, throat

oo	book, look, cook, took, shook,
oo	moo, poo, zoo, stool, moon, spoon
ar	farm, park, shark, star, start, cart
or	for, sort, short, horse, fork, snort
ur	hurt, burn, turn, nurse, burp, slurp
ow	cow, now, how, down, brown, town, gown
ow	blow, snow, show, flow, glow
oi	join, coin, choice, noise
ear	hear, ear, gear, dear, fear,
air	hair, chair, fair
ure	sure, future, adventure, creature
er	flower, power, shower, corner, better, after
	Within Phase 3 Super Power Words he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, they, her, all, are taught.
Phase 4	Throughout Phase 4, Phase 2 and 3 graphemes and reading and spelling CVC words. Within Phase 4 Super Power Words have, like, some, come, were, there, little, one, do, when, out, what are taught.
Phase 5	Throughout Phase 5 alternative spellings and pronunciations for phonemes, are taught.
ay	may, play, day, lay, say, tray
oy	boy, toy, enjoy,
ir	girl, bird, whirl, twirl
ou	out, shout, loud, mouth, found

ea	eat, seat, meat, neat, real, dream, scream
aw	saw, yawn, dawn, jaw, claw
tion	celebration, tradition, congratulation
are	care, fare, share, bare, square
	Within Phase 5 these Super Power Words are taught oh, their, people, Mr, Mrs, looked, called, asked.
	Within Phase 6 spelling rules are taught.