

# Phonics in Year 1

Folksworth C of E Primary School

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# 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.

# The Jargon - A Quick Guide

**phonics** (also known as 'synthetic phonics') - The teaching of reading by developing awareness of the sounds in words and the corresponding letters used to represent those sounds

**phoneme** - Any one of the 44 sounds which make up words in the English language

**grapheme** - How a phoneme is written down. There can be more than one way to spell a phoneme. For example, the phoneme 'ay' is spelt differently in each of the words 'way', 'make', 'fail', 'great', 'sleigh' and 'lady'.

**blending** - Putting together the sounds in a word in order to read it, e.g. 'f - r - o - g, frog'

**segmenting** - Breaking a word into its constituent sounds in order to spell them, e.g. 'frog, f - r - o - g'

# 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 and the graphemes (spelling patterns) that represent them.

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

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

# Why Are Children Taught Phonics?

Phonics, taught in a structured way, is generally accepted to be the most effective way to teach reading and writing.

Children learn to hear and recognise sounds in words and spell them correctly.

This assists with their confidence, accuracy and fluency.

Phonics should not be taught in isolation – children also need to learn other reading and comprehension skills alongside phonic knowledge.

# Letters and Sounds

Letters and Sounds is a resource for the teaching of phonics which was issued by the Department for Education in 2007.

It remains the most common way to teach phonics in British primary schools.

It is divided into six sections, or phases, intended to begin in the preschool years and finish at the end of year 2 (age 7).

## Phase Five

Children will broaden their knowledge of graphemes and phonemes.

They will learn alternative ways of spelling the phonemes they have already learnt.

They will learn strategies to help them choose the correct grapheme for spelling.

Children will be reading with more and more fluency, no longer needing to 'sound out' most familiar words.

## Phase Six and Beyond

Phase 6 is mainly taught as children progress through year 2 (age 6-7).

Children are becoming fluent readers and more accurate spellers. They learn more spelling patterns such as the use of prefixes and suffixes, contracted forms of words (e.g. can't, won't) and other words in common usage such as days of the week.

At this stage, children can read hundreds of words automatically. They are now reading for pleasure and reading to learn rather than learning to read.

They can decode words quickly and silently and only need to sound out longer or more unfamiliar words.



# What is the Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or they have not taken the test before.

Headteachers should decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take the phonics screening check. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.



## What Happens During the Test?

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one-to-one and read each word aloud to a teacher. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

### Examples of words

day

snemp



slide

blurst



newt

spron



phone

stroft



## Pseudo Words (Nonsense Words)

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.



voo



jound



terg



fape

## Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term all schools must report each child's results to their parents. They will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

## How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise – get them to have a ‘good guess’.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.

How can you help at home?

Listen you your child reading EVERY DAY.

Practise the sounds sent home.

Practise the common exception words.

Good websites;

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk) Free but can subscribe for the extras!

[www.busythings.co.uk](http://www.busythings.co.uk) Paid site but brilliant

[www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk) Free

OTHER VERY GOOD SITES ARE AVAILABLE!!!!

Do you need support or help when listening to your child reading or supporting phonics at home.

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to come an have a chat if you would like help.

Any questions?