



Courthill Infant School

Phonics Workshop
Tuesday 14th October 2025

Mrs Wright and Mrs Logan
English Leaders

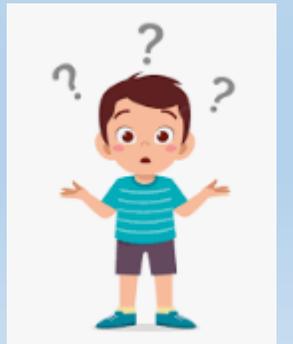
Aims of the evening

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The aim of this evening's workshop is to introduce you to the world of phonics.

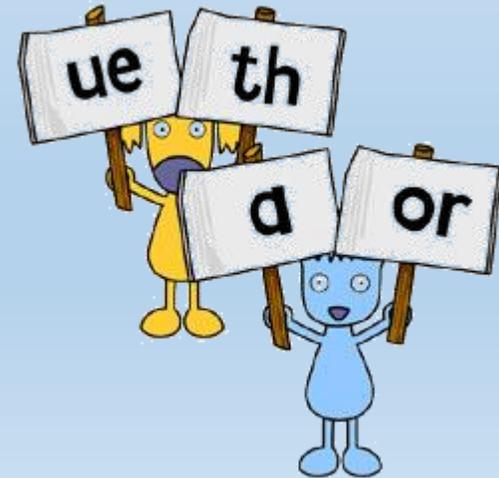
- What is Phonics? - Terminology and teaching.
- Workshops – activities children take part in and how to help at home.



What is phonics?



- Phonics is one of the most effective ways to learn to read.
- There are 26 letters in the alphabet but the English language is broken down into 44 sounds.
- Sounds are taught from easiest to hardest (systematic and progressive).



What is phonics?

- Children are taught to read by breaking down words into separate sounds or '**phonemes**'.
- They are then taught how to **blend** these sounds together to read the whole word.
- Children are taught both phonic knowledge and skills.



Knowledge:

- 44 phonemes
- Approximately 140 graphemes

Skills:

- Blending (for reading)
- Segmenting (for spelling)

Terminology

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Phoneme

- Each sound we hear in a word is a phoneme.
- Take the word '**dog**' for example. There are three phonemes involved.
d-o-g
- The word '**reading**' for has five phonemes. **R-ea-d-i-ng**
- The word '**eight**' only has two phonemes. **eigh-t**
- The word '**ear**' only has one phoneme. **ear**



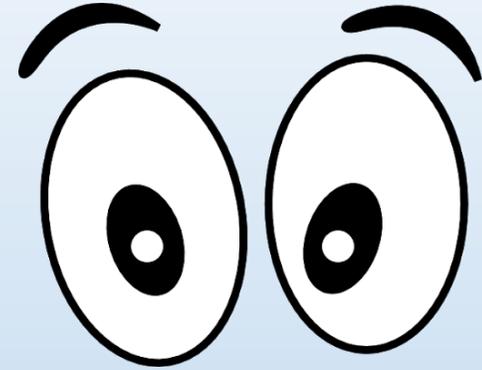
Pure sounds

- Pure sounds are when you pronounce each sound clearly and distinctly. The smallest possible sound. It is important not to put an 'uh' on the end
- For example, f not fuh, s not suh





Grapheme



- The letters that represent the sound.
- An example of a two letter grapheme (digraph) is the 'ea' sound in team and 'ee' in sheep
- A three letter grapheme is known as a trigraph, for example 'igh' in the word high and ear in the word hear
- A four letter grapheme is called a quadgraph and can be found in the word eight where 'eigh' makes the long 'a' vowel sound.



Digraph

- Two letters that make one sound.

ee

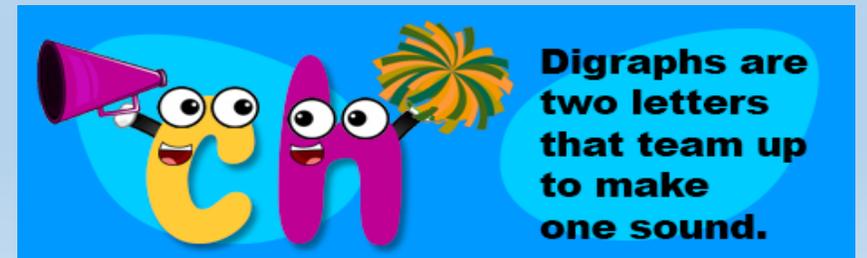
ch

ai

th

sh

ow





Trigraph

- Three letters that make one sound.

igh

ure

ear

air



Split digraph

Two letters that make a vowel sound but are split by a consonant.

The 'e' makes the vowel say it's name.

cake

smile

huge

eve

phone

Blending

- Blending is the process of blending together individual sounds from left to right to say the word aloud.
- We use our 'robot arms' to help us.
 - C-a-t is blended into cat
 - S-p-oo-n is blended into spoon





Segmenting

- Is the opposite of blending.
- Taking a word and breaking up into the phonemes to spell the word.
- We use our phoneme fingers to spell/segment words





Common exception words

- Words that are the exception to the rule. They do not follow spelling patterns. We refer to these common exception words as 'tricky' because we can't use our sounds to read or spell them. We just have to learn them by sight.

as

is

the

to

go

Phonics Progression LW

- Phase 1 – Nursery/beginning of reception
- Phase 2 – Reception
- Phase 3 – reception (recap in Year 1)
- Phase 4 – Reception/Year 1
- Phase 5 – Year 1
- Phase 6 – Year 2

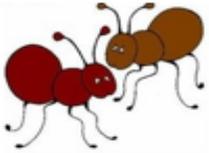
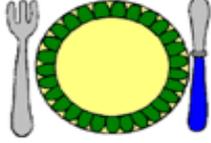
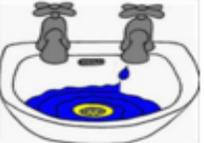
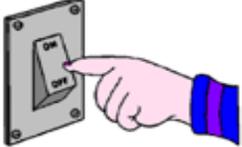
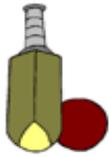
Phonic Phases - Phase 1

This phase first introduced in nursey and pre school settings.

- Phase 1 concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work that starts in phase 2 (EYFS).
- The emphasis during phase 1 is to get children attuned with environmental sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.
- The sounds on the following slides are taught in each phase throughout EYFS and KS1.

Phase 2 Sounds

These sounds/graphemes are introduced in Reception

Sets 1 & 2							
S s 	A a 	T t 	P p 	I i 	N n 	M m 	D d 
Set 3				Set 4			
G g 	O o 	C c 	K k 	E e 	U u 	R r 	ck 
Set 5							
H h 	B b 	F f 	ff 	L l 	ll 	ss 	

Phase 3 Sounds

These sounds/graphemes are introduced in Foundation Stage

Set 6				Set 7				
J j 	W w 	V v 	X x 	Y y 	Z z 	zz 	qu 	
Set 8								
ch 	sh 	th 	th 	ng 	nk 			
Set 9								
ai 	ee 	igh 	oa 	oo 	oo 			
Set 10				Set 11				
ar 	or 	ur 	ow 	oi 	ear 	air 	ure 	er 

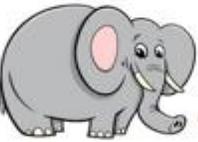
Phase 4 – Consolidation

This phase is introduced in Foundation Stage

- Phase 4 is a consolidation phase where all previously learnt graphemes are revised and consolidated as well as a further focus on phonic skills (blending for reading and segmenting for spelling).
- Children work through the different Phase 4 Yellow book bands and learn to read more common exception words on sight.

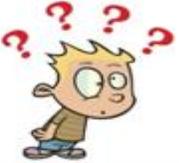
Phase 5 Sounds

These sounds/graphemes are introduced in Year 1

Set 13		Set 14 (long 'a' sound /ai/)					
wh 	ph 	ay 	a-e 				
Set 15 (long 'e' sound /ee/)							
ea 	e-e 	ie 	ey 	y 			
Set 16 (long 'i' sound /igh/)			Set 17				
ie 	i-e 	y 	i 	ow 	o-e 	o 	oe 

Phase 5 Sounds

These sounds/graphemes are introduced in Year 1

Set 18 (long /oo/ and /yoo/)					
ew 	ue 	u-e 	u 		
Set 19 (/or/ sound)					
aw 	au 	al 	our 	oor 	ore 
Set 20			Set 21		
ir 	er 	ear (/ir/) 	ou 	oy 	

Phase 5 & 6 Alternative Sounds

- This is introduced in Year 1 and continues into Year 2, focusing on alternative sounds and spelling patterns.
- Different spellings of the same sound e.g. h**ear**, st**eer** and h**ere**

Phonics Lessons



- Children have daily phonics lessons which are pacy and fun!
- We teach them the knowledge and skills needed to read and write in all areas of the curriculum.
- Each lesson follows a familiar format and lasts around 20 minutes.
- There are 4 sections to each lesson:
 - **Revisit/review** - practise previously taught sounds and words.
 - **Teach** – teach new graphemes and words.
 - **Practise** – practise new sounds and words in fun ways, e.g. sound buttons, interactive games, robot arms, my turn, your turn.
 - **Apply** - read or write words and sentences using new sounds.

Sound Charts

Phase 2 - Sets 1 & 2							
Ss	Aa	Tt	Pp	Ii	Nn	Mm	Dd
Set 3							
Gg	Oo	Cc	Kk				
Set 4							
Ee	Uu	Rr	ck				
Set 5							
Hh	Bb	Ff	ff	Ll	ll	ss	
Set 6							
Jj	Ww	Vv	Xx				
Set 7							
Yy	Zz	zz	qu				

Set 8					
ch	sh	th	th	ng	nk
Set 9					
ai	ee	igh	oa	oo	oo
Set 10					
ar	or	ur	ow	oi	
Set 11					
ear	air	ure	er		

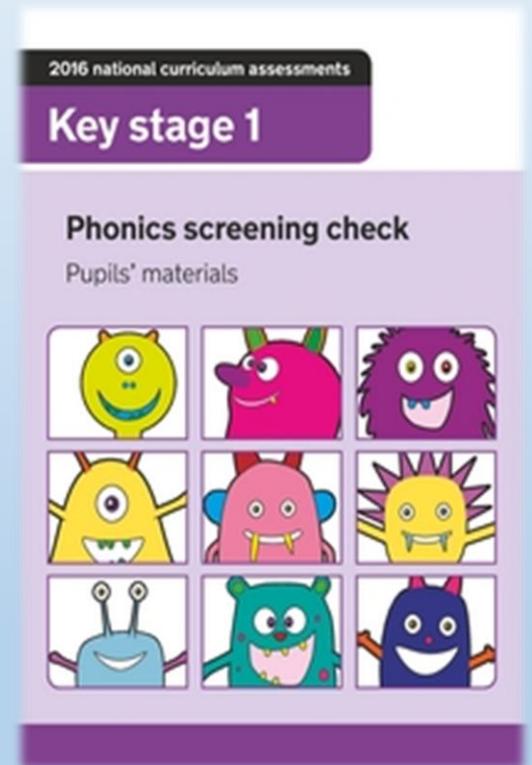
- Sound charts are displayed in each classroom for the children to become familiar with the groups of sounds / sets. These are regularly referred to in all lessons, especially phonics and writing.
- Children can see the phonics progression for themselves and are shown what sounds they already know, what sounds they are working on and are able to see what is coming next.
- These sound charts link directly to our phonics progression and the sound mats children use in class.

Phonics Screening Check

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- The Department of Education provide a phonics screening check to assess the phonic knowledge of children across the country.
- The check takes place in Year One during June.
- The children sit with their teacher and read 40 words aloud, including both real and alien words. They use their phonic knowledge and skills to read the words.



Time for Workshops!

- Blending for reading
- Segmenting for spelling
- Common Exception Words
- Phonics Screen and how to help at home

