



Benhurst Primary School

Phonics in Reception



'Only my best is good enough for me'

Our Aim

We teach daily, high-quality phonics lessons to ensure the children have the best start in reading and writing. Good quality phonics teaching allows the child to be secure in the skills of word recognition and decoding which allows children to read fluently. This will result in children being able to read for pleasure and develop higher order comprehension skills.

Phonics Curriculum

We use Ruth Miskin Read Write Inc as a basis for our Phonics teaching and incorporate DfEs Letters and Sounds programme. Phase 1 to 4 are taught in reception.

Phase 1

Phase 1 develops children's abilities to listen to, make, explore and talk about sounds.

Phase 2

Each sound is introduced in systematic way.

Set 1 - s a t p

Set 2 - i n m d

Set 3 - g o c k

Set 4 - c k e u r

Set 5 - h b f ff l ll s ss

It is very important that these phonemes are pronounced clearly and correctly. Children learn the sound (phoneme) that each of these letters (grapheme) make. Children learn how to write these letters. We teach the children a rhyme to help them remember the formation of the letter.

Phase 3

Set 6 - j v w x

Set 7 - y z zz qu

Consonant digraphs - ch sh th ng

Vowel digraphs (and trigraphs) ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur ow oi ear air ure er

Children learn the sound (phoneme) that each of these letters or group of letters (grapheme) make. Children learn how to write these letters. We teach the children a

rhyme to help them remember the formation of the letter(s) that go together to make one sound.

What does the term CVC mean? It refers to words with a consonant phoneme, a vowel phoneme and then a consonant phoneme - it is not referring to letters. E.g. hot and ship are CVC words but cow and toy are not.

Phase 4

This stage is to consolidate knowledge of learned graphemes (letter or groups of letters) by reading and spelling words containing adjacent consonants e.g. truck and words with multiple syllables. If children struggle to hear all the sounds in a word, encourage them to think about the movements that their mouths are making. Children can be supported by moving their arms like a robot each time they make a sound or using a mirror. This can help children to discriminate between different sounds in words.

How does phonics fit into the big picture of teaching reading?

Phonics is the code that turns written language into spoken language and vice versa. It is the vital initial step in teaching children to read. Children should also be regularly exposed to a wide range of quality texts. They should be regularly read aloud to.

How can I help at home?

Each week, you will be informed of the sounds covered in school and the associated rhyme to support handwriting and the recording of that sound as a letter. To support your child at home, please practise saying the sound, rhyme, reading words with the focus sound and writing the sound/letter.

Suggested activities include:

Create a sound bag/box- collect items that start with the focus sound

Word hunt- find and read words containing the focus sound

I Spy- objects starting with the focus sound

Build a word- use focus letters to build CVC words

Flashcards- create your own flashcards for each focus sound

Paint, draw, chalk, trace the focus sound/letter

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/parents>

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/list/phonics-games-phase-2>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/phonics/balloon-phonics-cvc-game>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2yf4j>