



Phonics



What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read and spell quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to:

- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;
- identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'
- blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

Why Phonics?

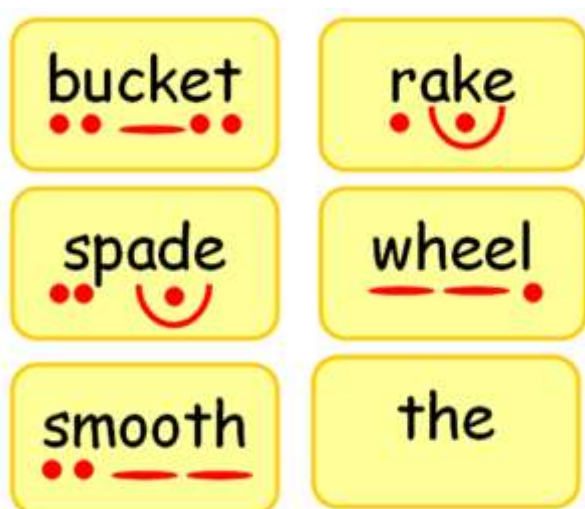
- ✓ Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way – starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex – it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read. It is particularly helpful for children aged 5 to 7.
- ✓ Almost all children who receive good teaching of phonics will learn the skills they need to tackle new words. They can then go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently, and to read for enjoyment.
- ✓ Children who have been taught phonics also tend to read more accurately than those taught using other methods, such as 'look and say'. This includes children who find learning to read difficult, for example those who have dyslexia.

Phonics can help children develop vital reading skills and hopefully give them a love of reading. At Tweeddale Primary daily Phonics lessons are taught in Early Years and Key Stage 1. In Year 1 and 2, phonics is reinforced through other activities such as writing, Guided Reading or Shared Reading.

Learning is divided into phases: **Phase 1-3= EYES** **Phase 3-5= Y1&2** **Phase 6= Y2&3**

<p>Phase 1 -vital</p> <p>Skills continue to be developed throughout KS1 and KS2.</p> <p>Develops abilities to listen to, make, explore and talk about sounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rhyming • sounds and games, • hearing sounds (weee on slide) 	<p>Phase 2 (6 weeks)</p> <p>VC (it) and CVC (cat) words</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set 1: s a t p • Set 2: i n m d • Set 3: g o c k • Set 4: ck e u r • Set 5: h b f ff l ll ss 	<p>Phase 3 (12 weeks)</p> <p>All 44 phoneme-graphemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set 6: j v w x • Set 7: y z zz qu • Ch sh th ng • ai ee igh oa oo(foot) oo(moon) ar or ur ow oi ear air ure er
<p>Phase 4</p> <p>consolidate previous learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segment /blend adjacent consonants in words • (CCVC, CVCC, CCVCC) (step list grasp) 	<p>Phase 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternatives e.g. ae/ ay/ a_e/ ai/ 	<p>Phase 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading/spelling • rarer grapheme/phoneme correspondence • Fluency/ comprehension

To help the children identify sounds we model the use of sound buttons.



At Tweeddale Primary the children are taught to understand the associated vocabulary. Below is a list of words you may hear your child using.

Vocabulary

- **Phonics** – knowledge and skills of segmenting and blending
- **Phoneme** – the smallest unit of sound in a word (how it is heard)
- **Grapheme** – a letter or sequence of letters that represent the phoneme (how it is written)
- **Digraph** – A grapheme containing two letters that makes just one sound ai = r ai n
- **Trigraph** – A grapheme containing three letters that makes just one sound igh = l igh t
- **Blend** – putting sounds together into words
- **Segment** – breaking words into sounds
- **V**-vowel **C**-consonant
- **Common exception** – old tricky words/ words that don't follow the rule
- **Split digraph** – old 'magic e'

How to help your child

- Have patience
- Read daily - homework and bedtime stories
- Encourage your child to segment and blend unfamiliar words
- Point out sounds when reading
- Tell your child common exception words – don't sound them out
- Discuss the story and pictures
- Play 'Hunt the word' after reading a book
- Discuss new vocabulary
- Play word games
- Model reading – especially males
- Read words in the environment
- Join a library

June
Year 1 - all children
Year 2 – who need to retake

Phonics Screening Check

Each child will read 40 words to a familiar adult. Initially they will be reminded to segment and blend in order to do this. Some of the words will be real words and some will be pseudo words, known to the children as alien or nonsense words. Your child's score will be reported to you by the end of the summer term, in past years it has been included in their school report.

Some useful websites

Letters and Sounds – games and resources	http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-3-games.html
Alphablocks - videos, resources, games	https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks
Phonics games	https://www.phonicsbloom.com/
Screening check information for parents	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ulv63W9StE
Jolly Phonics actions guide	https://jolly2.s3.amazonaws.com/Resources/Jolly%20Phonics%20Actions%20Sheet%20.pdf

