

3rd November 2020



Phonics in Years 1 and 2

Dear Parent,

We would like to update you on our phonics/reading teaching and homework for this term. Our staff have now been able to work with each child to assess her/his knowledge of letter recognition and corresponding sounds. Children are, as always, at different stages of their development in this area. This is perfectly normal!

We have put together some packs to send home if you can practise with your child regularly it will enable you to support their phonic knowledge further.

We introduce a few letters (graphemes) or clusters of letters (digraphs eg: 'th' 'sh' 'ee' or trigraphs eg: 'igh' 'ure' 'ear) each week in school.

Some of you will find that your child recognises the letters already, but does not yet see them in a digraph for example 't' or 'h' but not 'th' (as in 'thin' or 'this') so we have included letters from phases 2, 3 and 5 for this reason.

We have included in your child's pack :

- A complete set of Phase 2/3/5/ Phonic letters (graphemes), to be cut up individually.
- Sound mats with all the Phase 2/3/5 sounds covered.
- Some words for your child to read using the sounds they have been learning.

IMPORTANT

Recognition of letters is only part of the reading/writing process. It is what we do with the letters/sounds which is so important.

We **BLEND** letter sounds together to make words to read.

For example, "c-a-t...cat" "d-o-g....dog".


We **SEGMENT** whole words into individual sounds in order to write them.

For example, "dog...d-o-g" "cat...c-a-t".



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Suggested activities:

- Speed read the flashcards of individual sounds without getting any wrong (timed activity?)
- Say a word for your child to sound out and find the corresponding letters
Eg Can you make the word- fish? can you hear the sounds... f...i...sh? Can you find the sounds on the cards? Can you write the word? Check it makes sense.
- sound out a word for your child to blend back together
Eg Can you tell me what sh...ee...p makes? Can you find those cards? Can you build the word? Check it makes sense.
- How many word cards can you read in one minute?

As we are having to limit items coming in and out of school, **please keep this whole pack of resources at home**. We will be doing similar activities (differentiated to offer challenge and support) in our daily phonics and areas of provision.

National Phonics Screening Assessment

The Year 1 children will complete the national phonics screening next year as normal.

The Year 2 children will complete national phonics screening in December and if necessary next year.

More information will be shared nearer the time. It is a process that the children are very familiar with and often enjoy showing how they can blend.

We do hope you have found this a helpful overview of what your child is learning in phonics? Support from home is hugely beneficial to your child's learning and greatly appreciated. We would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

As always, please do not hesitate to catch us at the end of the day if you have any queries.

With best wishes,
The Key Stage 1 team

