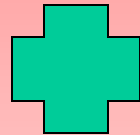


# Phonics

# Phonics at a glance

Phonics is...

**Skills of  
segmenting**  
(*breaking words into  
sounds*) and  
**blending** (*putting  
sounds together to  
make a word*)



**Knowledge of  
the alphabetic  
code.**

# The Alphabet

a b c d e f g h i

j k l m n o p q

r s t u v w x y z

# Some Definitions

## A Phoneme

This is the smallest unit of sound in a word.



How many phonemes can you hear in

**cat?**

# A grapheme

These are the letters that represent the phoneme.



A grapheme can be 1 letter, 2 letters or more! e.g t, ai, igh.  
We refer to these as sound buttons.

tug  
●●●

light  
●—●

laid  
●—●

- A phoneme you hear



- A grapheme you see



# Phonics Consists of:

- Identifying sounds in spoken words.
- Recognising the common spellings of each phoneme.
- Blending phonemes into words for reading.
- Segmenting words into phonemes for spelling.

# Blending (for reading)

- Recognising the letter sounds in a written word e.g c-u-p, sh-ee-p.
- Merging them in the correct order to pronounce the word 'cup' and 'sheep'.



# Segmenting (for spelling)

- Identifying the individual sounds in a spoken word (e.g. h-i-m , s-t-or-k) and writing down letters for each sound (phoneme) to form the word 'him' and 'stork'.

# The Letters and Sounds Phases explained!

Phonic and reading skills are taught in 6 distinct phases.

In Reception we make sure the children are secure within Phases 2 and 3. Some children may enter phase 4/5.

# Phase 1

- \* Showing an awareness of rhyme (cat/mat) and alliteration (Harry the hungry horse).
- \* Distinguishing between sounds in the environment and phonemes.
- \* Exploring and experimenting with sounds and words.
- \* Discriminating speech sounds in words.
- \* Beginning to orally blend and segment phonemes.

# Phase 2

- Using common consonants and vowels.
- Blending for reading and segmenting for spelling simple *cvc* (consonant/vowel/consonant) words.
- Understanding that words are constructed from phonemes and that phonemes are represented by graphemes.

Letter sets are taught in patterns  
of about four per week (phase 2)

- 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

These 'alphabet' sounds can be taught  
with Jolly phonic actions

## Phase 3:

Knowing and applying one grapheme for each of the 42 phonemes.

There are 42 phonemes in the English language!

## Enunciation

- Teaching phonics requires a technical skill in enunciation.
- Each phoneme (sound) should be articulated clearly and precisely.

s	a	t	p	i	n	m
d	g	o	c (k)	e	u	r
h	b	f	l			
j	v	w	x	y	z	qu
	Consonant digraphs	ch	sh	th	ng	
ai	ee	igh	oa	oo/oo	ar	or
	ow	oi	ear	air	ure	er/ur

# Grapheme Key Vocabulary

- Digraph 2 letters making one sound ( ch, sh, ai, ee)
- Trigraph 3 letters making one sound (igh, ear)
- Split digraph (Phase 5) Where the two letters are not adjacent (a-e, e-e)



# Key words and Tricky words

Alongside 'phased' phonic teaching, children also learn high frequency and 'tricky' words (those that are not spelt phonetically) e.g 'go'.

There are 300 high frequency words to learn!

(100 in Rec/Y1 and an additional 200 in Year 2)

# FINALLY!

Children should always work within the phase that is appropriate to their level of learning.

It's called 'Foundation Stage' for a reason... without strong foundations a house will fall down!