





What is phonics?



Phonics is a way of teaching children to read. They are taught to:

- Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes.
- •Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make e.g. sh and oo.

There are around 40 different sounds.

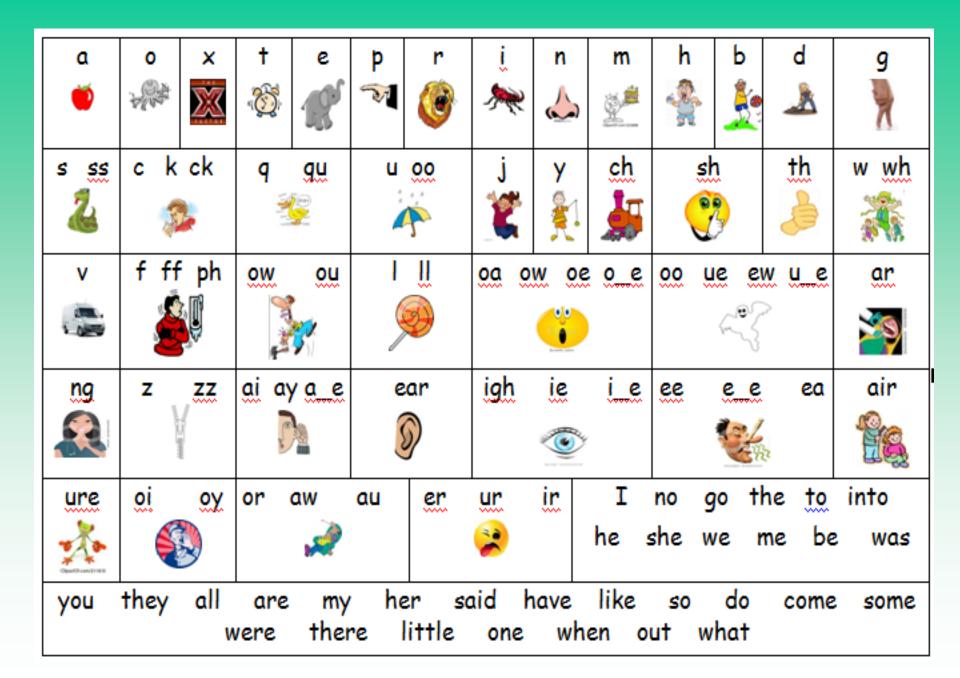
·Read by breaking down words into separate sounds or 'phonemes'. They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to read the whole word.

Phonics at JHS

·Children have a 30 minute phonics lesson each day and they are encouraged to use these strategies to read and write in other lessons.

•The children are encouraged to use and apply the phonic knowledge they are learning during one to one reading sessions and Guided reading.

 The children are also encouraged to use 'phoneme mats' when writing.



Phase 3

Phase 3

The purpose of this phase is to:

- teach more graphemes, most of which are made of two letters (digraphs), for example, 'oa' as in boat. There are also some three letter (trigraphs) sounds such as 'igh', 'air', 'ure'.
- practise blending and segmenting a wider set of CVC words, for example, fizz, chip, sheep, light
- · learn all letter names and begin to form them correctly
- · read more tricky words and begin to spell some of them
- · read and write words in phrases and sentences.

Here are some examples of words your children will be reading: tail,

· week, right, soap, food, park, burn, cord, town, soil

Phase 4

Children continue to practise previously learned graphemes and phonemes and learn how to read and write slightly longer words:

CVCC words: tent, damp, toast, chimp and CCVC words: swim, plum, sport, cream, spoon

They will be learning more tricky words and continuing to read and write sentences together.

Phase 5 and Beyond

In Phase 5:

The children learn that most sounds (phonemes) can be spelled in more than one way. For example, the **f** sound can be written as **f** as in fan or **ff** as in puff or **ph** as in photo.

This develops their knowledge of spelling choices. They will continue with this spelling work into Year 2 and beyond.

They will learn that most letters and combinations of letters (graphemes) can represent more than one sound. For example, the grapheme **ea** can be read as /ee/ as in leaf or /e/ as in bread.

This supports their reading development.

Why is my child being tested?

- •In 2012, the Government introduced an annual phonics screening test.
- ·Every Year 1 child in the country will be taking the phonics screening check in the same week in June.
- •The aim of the check is to ensure that all children are able to read by the end of year two.
- •This 'midpoint check' will ensure that we have a clear understanding of what the children need to learn in year 2.

What will the children be expected to do?

- The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons.
- •The test comprises of a list of 40 words that children will be asked to 'sound out' and blend together.eg d-o-g dog d o g
- •The focus of the check is to see which sounds the children know and therefore the children will be asked to read a combination of both real and made up (nonsense) words, which rely purely on using phonics to decode.
- •The nonsense words will be shown with a picture of an alien next to it so the children know it is a nonsense word.



Examples of words

day

snemp



slide

blurst



newt

spron



phone

stroft



When will the screening take place?

- •The screening will take place throughout the week beginning Monday 8th June. The children cannot take the test at any other time so it is very important your child is in school during this week.
- The check has been designed so that children of all abilities will be able to take part.



Who will complete the check?

- •The children will complete the check one at a time in a quiet area of the school.
- This year Mrs Haythorne will conduct all of the screening checks with the children.
- The screening will only take 5-10 minutes per child.

How can you help?

•Encourage your child to 'sound out' when reading or writing. Focusing particularly on spotting more unusual sound patterns.

Eg

<u>Digraph</u>- 2 letters making one sound

COW

Trigraphs- 3 letters making one sound

night

Split digraphs- 2 vowels with a consonant in between. Used to be known as the magic el

spine - i_e

How can you help?

- •Encourage your child to use their sound mat when writing and use their actions to find the sound they need.
- •Children can practise their phonics by playing games online. There are a range of free games.
- ·Reading Eggs and Teach Your Monster to Read are excellent but do cost.
- The children particularly like
- 'Buried Treasure'



How can you help?

- ·REMEMBER: Phonics is not the only thing needed to become a fluent reader.
- ·Please continue to read with your child each night and encourage them to:
- ·Sound out
- ·Re-read to check it makes sense.
- ·Use pictures for clues.
- ·Ask questions about the book.
- · And most importantly ENJOY READING!

Questions?

