



Phonics is a hugely important part of how we teach children to read and write. The children start phonics in Nursery and Pre School, they will continue developing their phonics knowledge in Reception and Years 1 and 2 then moving on to spelling in KS2. Your support at home is essential in helping children progress in phonics, and we would like you to be informed so you can help your child.

- The most important thing is to ask us if you're not sure. We are always happy to answer questions and help where we can.
- As the children start to learn sounds they will bring home cards with the sounds and words they are learning. If you would like to you can practise these at home.
- Play games with your children. Orchard games are usually very good or phonics games on [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk) or [www.ictgames.co.uk](http://www.ictgames.co.uk). You could also play spot the grapheme on road signs or matching pairs/snap with graphemes.
- The children will bring home a reading book when they are ready and can blend confidently. Once your child has a reading book reading frequently but for a short time is usually best. Don't worry if your child doesn't have a reading book, all children develop at different rates! Speak to us if you are worried but we will also speak to you if we have any concerns.
- Phonics is taught alongside handwriting, ensuring children are forming letters correctly. If you would like a handwriting sheet to practise forming letters correctly with your child, please ask.
- These websites are useful for more information about phonics and also to show the correct pronunciation for each sound:

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

[www.mrthorne.com](http://www.mrthorne.com)

<https://www.jollylearning.co.uk/free-parent-teacher-resources/>

### Useful vocabulary which we will be using with the children

- Phoneme- a sound which can be made by 1, 2, 3 or 4 letters ('a' as in ant, 'ch' as in chop, 'air' as in pair, 'ough' as in dough).
- Grapheme- the letter(s) used to write a phoneme e.g. c,k and ck are all different graphemes for the same sound; ee, e, ea and e\_e are all graphemes for the same sound.
- Digraph- 2 letters making one sound e.g. ch in chop, th in that, ar in park.
- Trigraph- 3 letters making one sound e.g. ear in near, igh in night, air in stair.
- Split digraph-where the digraphs ee, ue, ae, ie, oe are split by a letter in the middle e.g. Crete, flute, make, tide, stone.
- Blending- blending together phonemes to read a word (c-a-t blended to make cat). We use pointy finger and sound buttons to help with this.
- Segmenting-breaking a word into phonemes for spelling (sit segmented to s-i-t). We use segmenting gloves to help with this.

s 	a 	t 	i 	p 	n 	c 	e 
h 	r 	m 	d 	g 	o 	u 	l 
f 	b 	ai 	j 	oa 	ie 	ee 	or 
z 	w 	ng 	v 	oo 	y 	x 	ch 
sh 	th 	qu 	ou 	oi 	ue 	er 	ar 