



Phonics Help Sheet

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another.

It focuses on teaching sounds (phonemes) associated with graphemes (letters).

Phonics involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. For example, the sound *k* can be spelled as *c*, *k*, *ck* or *ch*.

Teaching children to blend the sounds of letters together helps them decode unfamiliar or unknown words by sounding them out. For example, when a child is taught the sounds for the letters *t*, *p*, *a* and *s*, they can start to build up the words: "tap", "taps", "pat", "pats" and "sat".

The sounds we teach . . .

Term	Graphemes		Colour	SET
	satpinmd	Reception	Pink	1-2
	gock			3
	ckeur			4
	h b f f l l s s			5
	j v w x			6
	y z z z qu	Reception	Red	7
	ch sh th ng			8
	ai ee igh oa oo			9
	ar or ur ow oi			10
	ear air ure er			11
	Consolidation	Reception	Yellow	12
		Y1		
	zh wh ph	Y1	Blue	13
	ay a-e igh ey ei (long a)			14
	ea e-e ie ey y (long e)			15
	ie i-e y i (long i)			16
	ow o-e o oe (long o)			17
	ew ue u-e (long u) u oul (short oo)			18
	aw au al			19
	ir er ear			20
	ou oy			21
	eer ere are ear			22
	c k ck ch	Y1	Green	23
	c(j) c(y) sc stl			24
	ge g dge			25
	le mb kn/gn wr			26
	tch ch c(ial) ss(ion) t(ion)			27

Language we use in school

Phonemes—the smallest units of sound that are found within a word

Grapheme—a written symbol that represents a sound ([phoneme](#)). This can be a single letter, or could be a sequence of letters, such as *ai*, *sh*, *igh*, *tch* etc. So when a child says the sound /t/ this is a phoneme, but when they write the letter 't' this is a grapheme.

Digraph—two letters that make one sound

Trigraph—three letters that make one sound

CVC—consonant vowel consonant

Segmenting—breaking up words into sounds

Blending—combing sounds together to make a word

Tricky words—words that can't easily be decoded.

Blending to read

Children need to be able to hear the separate sounds in a word and then blend them together to read a whole word eg. t//a//p tap

Segmenting to Spell

Children need to be able to hear a word and say every sound they hear You say tap—your child says t//a//p

Useful Video

[Phonics: How to pronounce pure sounds | Oxford Owl - YouTube](#)

Bug Club Login

[ActiveLearn: Login \(activelearnprimary.co.uk\)](#)

Reading at Home

Regular reading and practise at home is essential at this early stage. The books your child brings home are carefully matched to their phonic ability and to the sounds they have learnt in school. As a school we expect your child to practise regularly at home. Please date and sign their Reading Record and let us know how they are doing. The phonics books are designed to be read over and over and we will change them in school every three days. We won't move children on however until they have mastered the sounds so please keep practising regularly. Revising the same book several times is recommended so that your child becomes fluent and confident.