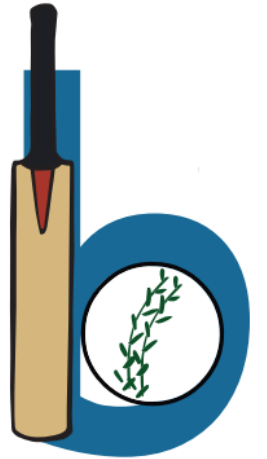


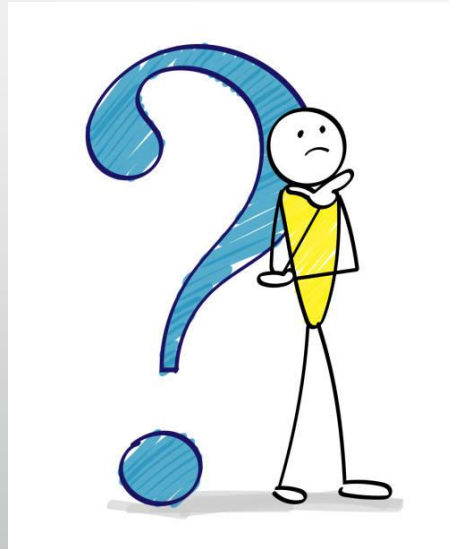
Teaching Phonics in Reception



Success for All 

What is phonics?

- Phonics is a method of teaching children how to read and write the English Language. It teaches children that the sounds of English are made by a letter or a group of letters.





Graphemes and Phonemes

- **Graphemes** are the letters which make the sounds. It is the written form of a sound.
- **Phonemes** are the sounds that the letters makes.
- An example to explain this is:

‘K’ is the phoneme, it is the sound we hear. But the grapheme to represent this sound could be c, k, ck.

Digraphs, Trigraphs and Split-Digraphs

- **Digraphs** are one sound made up of 2 letters. For example 'ch'
- **Trigraphs** are one sound made up of 3 letters. For example 'igh'
- **Split-Digraphs** are one sound made up of 2 letters, that are split. For example 'a_e'. These are taught in Year 1.



How we teach phonics in Reception

- We are using a phonics scheme called FFT Success for All which was new to us last year.
- There are 44 phonemes and we start by teaching the children single sounds that are part of the alphabet. s,a,t,p,i,n etc.
- We introduce 3 or 4 new sounds each week up to Summer term, where we move on to teaching 1 new sound a week. We introduce the grapheme (the letter name) and then the phoneme. We also teach the children an action to match the phoneme. This helps them to remember the sound.
- We send you our fortnightly letter to show you which sounds your child has been learning.
- Each day we revisit all previously taught sounds and practise them throughout the week. The sounds are also in both our indoor and outdoor environments. On a Friday and during the last week of every half term, we consolidate our learning and recap everything we have learned so far that week or that half term.

Reception

- We need to make sure we pronounce the sounds as a pure sound. This means pronouncing each letter sound clearly and distinctly without adding additional sounds to the end e.g. 'f' not 'fuh.'
- FFT has a parent portal which has helpful videos to show you how to pronounce each sound correctly. Search FFT parental portal – you do not need a log in.
- <https://parents.fft.org.uk/>



Reception Picture Sound Mat



Blending

- After spending some time identifying initial sounds in words, for example, hearing the c at the beginning of the word cat, we move on to blending.
- Blending is when we teach the children to blend sounds together to say a word. c-a-t is 3 sounds, they say them quicker and quicker blending the sounds together to say the word cat.
- We spend a lot of time practising this skill as this is what we want the children to do when they are reading with you at home. They should hopefully identify the individual sounds in the words and blend them together to read the word.

Segmenting

- We also teach the children the skill of segmenting sounds. Splitting up sounds, listening to them one at a time to enable them to write the sounds and write a word. For example if a child was writing the word man, we would ask them what sound they could hear first –m, the child would write the corresponding grapheme. We would then move on to what sound can they hear next –a and then the last sound –n.

nap



rock



Green Words

get



tap



- We have spent a lot of our phonics lessons blending 3 sounds to make CVC words. A CVC word is a word containing a consonant, a vowel and another consonant. This is what a lot of the words in their reading books will be. Some examples of these words are cat, mat, map, rat, sun, run and bug. We then move onto longer words containing digraphs and trigraphs, but these are still green words because we can sound them out.

he

the

Red Words

she

I

- We have learned 2 red words this week, I and the. Red words are words that we cannot decode. We cannot use our sounds to sound them out. Children learn these words by sight. We revisit these every day. We will also include these on your fortnightly phonics letter that we send home and will also start sending home writing grids for the children to practise writing red words.

Shared Reading at school

- We use the FFT Scheme books in school and read daily as a whole class.
- We use these books to teach the children the skills of reading and retrieving information.
- These books match the phonics that is being taught.
- On the FFT Parent Portal these books are not available. As a school, we are using a different scheme which matches your child's phonic ability. These different books allow children to access a range of different genres and stories.

Reading at home

- We change reading books every Friday in Reception so please ensure they are in your child's book bag. We will not change them until the following week if we do not have them in on a Friday.
- To support their learning, encourage them to say the sounds out loud while they are pointing to the grapheme. We call it their reading finger.
- Help them to blend the sounds together if they cannot recognise the word.
- Can they tell you what the story is about?
- Ask them if they can predict what might happen next in the story.
- Can they describe to you how a character might be feeling and why?
- Use the questions in the back of books to test their knowledge about what they have read.
- Inference is important in year 1. This means the answers are not written down but it is about the children drawing on their knowledge of what they have read and using the pictures to help them. For example, being able to explain that a character is upset but also being able to explain why. We will move on to this in Reception as soon as your child is ready.

Please come and see us if there is anything you are unsure about.

Any questions?

