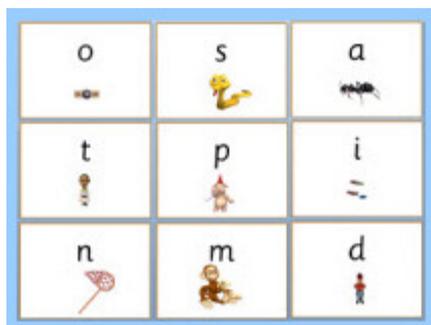


LETTERS AND SOUNDS



Phonics Information for Parents and Carers



The aim of this booklet is to give you a clear picture of how we approach the teaching of phonics and word recognition and how you can support your child at home.

Useful websites for resources and games:

www.phonicplay.co.uk

www.lettersandsounds.com

Letters and Sounds

At St James' Infant School we use a systematic phonics programme called "Letters and Sounds". In Reception this is used alongside a programme called "Jolly Phonics" which assigns actions to letter sounds. Letters and Sounds is divided into six phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning.

From Phase 2, reading sounds made by different letters is taught alongside writing them and children are taught to form letters correctly within the daily phonics session. The sessions are fun and interactive with lots of games to keep the children motivated and engaged. Children are constantly encouraged to apply their phonics learning to their reading and writing in a variety of contexts throughout the day.

Phase 1

This paves the way for systematic learning of phonics and usually starts in nursery or pre-school, but will be revisited when the children enter Reception. Children are taught to listen attentively to sounds in the environment, eg going on listening walks around the school to identify the different sounds they can hear. Teachers use a wide range of nursery rhymes and songs and lots of games to encourage children to listen carefully.

Learning how to "sound talk"

The teacher shows children how to segment words into sounds, eg cat = c-a-t. The whole word is spoken out loud and segmented into sounds. This is all oral and children will not be expected to match written letters at this stage.



Phase 2

Children in Reception move quickly onto this phase during which they will continue practising what they have learnt in Phase 1, including "sound talking". They will be taught the sounds for a number of letters and that some sounds can be represented by more than one letter, eg "ll" as in "bell", "ck" as in "duck", "ff" as in "puff" and "ss" as in "hiss".

They will use Jolly Phonics actions to go with these sounds. Children will be taught how to say the sounds correctly in order to make blending (putting sounds together to make a word) easier.

It's important that you say the sounds correctly to your child at home in order to reinforce the learning at school. Please see the table further on in the booklet which will help you with the correct pronunciation of the sounds. You can also visit YouTube and watch the video entitled "Read Write Inc. Phonemes Pronunciation Guide DVD".

The important thing to remember is to try to avoid putting "uh" at the end of sounds, for example, "sss" instead of "suh", "fff" instead of "fuh".

Tricky Words

Alongside learning the sounds made by letters children will learn to read "tricky" words. These are words which need to be learnt by sight. Tricky words for this phase are **the, to, I, no, go**.

Writing in lower-case

Lower case letters are taught initially and it is useful if you can use these at home. Please see the last page in the booklet which shows the letter formation that we teach.

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Phase 3

Children continue to practise the sounds learnt in Phase 2. They learn sounds which are made by two letters, eg "oa" as in "boat.". They practise blending and segmenting a wider range of words with three sounds, eg "ship", "feet". They learn to read more tricky words: **he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, her, they, all, are.** They learn the letter names and how to form letters correctly.

Phase 4

Children continue to practise the sounds previously learnt and how to read and write CVCC words, eg hand, bend, lump and CCVC words, eg spin, stop, trip. (C=consonant V=vowel)
They learn more tricky words: **said, so, do, have, like, some, come, were, there, little, one, when, out, what.**



Phase 5

Children revise previous learning and are taught alternative pronunciations for the same spelling pattern, eg "ow" in low and cow, "ea" in bread and eat. They are taught alternative spellings for the same sounds, eg the long vowel sound "o" can be made by "ow" as in blow, "oa" as in boat, "o-e" as in hope. They practice reading and spelling two and three-syllable words and many more tricky words.

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Phase 6

Children continue to revise all previous learning and they are introduced to the past tense, learn how to use suffixes such as "er", "est" "ful" and how to spelling longer words.

Not all children learn at the same rate!

As a general rule, Phases 1-3 are taught in Reception, Phases 4 and 5 are taught in Year 1 and Phase 6 is taught in Year 2. However this may vary and teachers will assess the children at the beginning of the year and decide which phase to start on and how quickly to progress.



If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to speak to your class teacher or to the literacy coordinator, Sarah Cota.

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Phoneme	Voiced?	Comments
a	Yes	
b	Yes	bbb not buh
c	No	c not cuh
d	Yes	ddd not duh
e	Yes	
f	No	Top teeth stay on bottom lip
g	Yes	ggg not guh
h	No	hhh not voiced huh
l	Yes	
j	Yes	jjj not juh
k	No	
l	Yes	Tongue stays on roof of mouth—ll not luh
m	Yes	mmm not muh
n	Yes	nnn not nuh
o	Yes	
p	No	Don't voice it! ppp not puh
q		This is actually 2 sounds—k and w
r	Yes	rrr not ruh
s	No	sss not suh
t	No	ttt not tuh
u	Yes	
v	Yes	
w	Yes	www not wuh
x		This is 2 sounds—ck and s
y	Yes	
z	Yes	zzz not zuh

Growing, caring and learning together

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Here are some alternative spellings for the same sound.
These are taught in Phase 5.

/ai/	/ee/	/ie/	/oe/
day (ay) came (a-e) maid (ai) weigh (eigh) grey (ey) baby (a)	sea (ea) sheep (ee) these (e-e) daddy (y) money (ey) thief (ie)	pie (ie) by (y) time (i-e) high (igh) kind (i)	low (ow) boat (oa) toe (oe) bone (o-e) dough (ough)
/ue/	/oi/	/ow/	/oo/
clue (ue) rude (u-e) blew (ew) moon (oo) to (o)	boy (oy) coin (oi)	cow (ow) loud (ou) plough (ough)	put (u) foot (oo) could (ou)

So, when we are segmenting the words, the following words have the following sounds:

clue = c-l-ue (3 sounds)

sheep = sh-ee-p (3 sounds)

weigh = w-eigh (2 sounds)

Letter Formation

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