

# Teaching and Learning Phonics in Rainbows Class



# What is phonics?

- Words are made up from small units of sound called **phonemes**
  - Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word.
- This helps children to learn to read words and to spell words

# When do we teach phonics?

Every child in Reception and KS1 takes part in a **daily** phonics session at their level.

Phonics gradually progresses through 6 stages from learning to distinguish sounds through to learning spelling rules.

# *How do we teach phonics in school?*

- We use the Essential Letters and Sounds Phonics teaching scheme.
  - Daily 20 minute session of phonics.
  - Fast paced approach involving reviewing, learning, practising and putting into reading and writing contexts.
  - Lessons encompass a range of games, songs and rhymes
- The children work through the 6 phases of phonics starting with Phase 2 in Rainbows.

# PHASE 1: GETTING READY FOR PHONICS

1. Tuning into sounds
2. Listening and remembering sounds
3. Talking about sounds
  - Music and movement
  - Rhythm and rhyme
  - Sound effects
  - Speaking and listening skills

# PHASE 2: LEARNING PHONEMES TO READ AND WRITE SIMPLE WORDS

Children will learn their first 19 phonemes:

Set 1: s a t p    Set 2: i n m d

Set 3: g o c k    Set 4: ck (as in duck) e u r

Set 5: h b l f ff ll ss

They will use these phonemes to read and spell simple “consonant-vowel-consonant” (CVC) words:

sat, tap, dig, duck, rug, puff, hill, hiss

All these words contain 3 phonemes.

# SAYING PHONEMES CORRECTLY

This is a really important thing to remember.

Sounds should be articulated clearly and precisely without adding an 'u' sound to the end of each one.

Some sounds are soft e.g. s, t, m

The letter names are not important at this stage only the phonemes (the sounds the letters make).

# LEARNING TO USE THE PHONEMES

Your children will learn to use the term:

*Blending*

Children need to be able to **hear** the separate sounds in a word and then blend them together to **say** the whole word .

You might see the children using robot arms and blending finger actions for this.



# BEGINNING TO SPELL

Your children will learn to use the term:

*segmenting*

Children need to be able to hear a whole word and say every phoneme (sound) that they hear .

We talk about stretching the word to help us hear all the sounds.

# DEVELOPING SEGMENTING AND BLENDING

Phoneme frames and sound  
buttons

c	a	t
---	---	---

• • •



f	i	sh
---	---	----

• • —



# TWO LETTERS TO MAKE ONE SOUND

Your children will learn to use the term:

*Digraph*

This means that the phoneme comprises of  
two letters

e.g. ll, ff, ck, ss

# HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

## Letters and Sounds Book

Your child will bring home a yellow book every Friday with the phonemes they have learnt that week.

Please help them to practise recognising the phonemes, digraphs and trigraphs. The book will fill up as the year goes on so please don't write in it as we'll need every page.

There will be sound button words to practise blending the phonemes they have learnt.

# HARDER TO READ AND SPELL WORDS

There are many words that **cannot** be blended or segmented because they are irregular.

**the    was    said    you    some**

The children need to practise recognising these words by sight.

# HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

## Phoneme book

We will send home the newly introduced harder to read and spell words at the bottom of the page in the yellow phoneme book for your child to practise reading.

g	 <small>up at the eye, around the eye and down the back</small>	o	 <small>around the ostrich's body</small>
c	 <small>cut around the camel's back</small>	k	 <small>down the body, up the arm, down the leg</small>
gas	pig	cat	
dig	got	kid	
can	cot	kit	
Tricky words: put of is			

# HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

- Reading builds vocabulary and vocabulary builds reading.
- A little bit of data for you...

Frequency of reading together	Number of words known by the age of 5
Never read to	4,662
1-2 time a week	63,570
3-5 time a week	169,520
Read to daily	296,660

# HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

Reading Books – school or story books at home

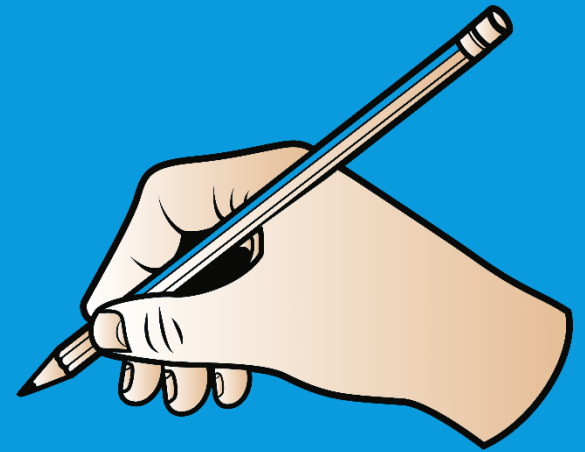
- Find a quiet place for reading.
- Read the pictures by encouraging your child to make up a story from what they can see.
- Spot phonemes or words they know.
- Model and expect good listening.
- Sing songs, rhymes and read poems, enjoying the rhyme and rhythm of words.
- Encourage the understanding and use of new vocabulary – what does that mean?
- This should be an enjoyable shared experience!



# WRITING

Your children will learn to use  
the term:

Grapheme



This is how a phoneme is  
written down.

# HANDWRITING

We are going to be teaching the children to write each letter as we introduce them in phonics.

Each letter has a pneumonic that helps the children to remember how to form the letter. These will be shared in the children's yellow books each week.

. The first step is confident mark making and the control of a pencil. This is best achieved through colouring, drawing, fine motor activities, play dough and painting. Rainbows begin Finger Gym after half term which focuses on these skills.

# BEGINNING TO FORM LETTERS

We will teach the children the graphemes in school and all we ask is that you encourage your child to mark make and draw as much as they like at home to support them in their fine motor control.

The one area that we do ask for your help is with the teaching of how to form the letters of their name.

**Mrs Edwards**

There will be a handout coming home tomorrow with all of these slides on and a letter formation sheet to support name writing.

# PHASE 3: LEARNING THE LONG VOWEL PHONEMES

- Children will enter phase 3 once they know the first 19 phonemes and can blend and segment to read and spell CVC words.

- They will learn more phonemes:

j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu

ch, sh, th, ng, nk, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, ur, or, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er, ow(oa sound).

- They will use these phonemes (and the ones from Phase 2) to read and spell words:

chip, shop, thin, ring, pain, feet, night, boat,

look, farm, fork, burn, town, coin, dear, fair, sure

# THREE LETTERS TO MAKE ONE SOUND

Your children will learn to use the term:

Trigraph

This means that the phoneme comprises of three letters

e.g. igh , ear, ure

# SO IN SUMMARY, AT HOME...

- Practise the phonemes together.
- Play games like eye spy (Saying the phoneme not the letter name as the clue).
- Spot phonemes they know when they are out and about.
- Read to your child everyday (if possible) giving them the opportunity to talk about the story.
- Ask open ended questions about the story:
  - What might happen next? Why do you think that?
  - Which character do you like, why?
- Enjoy their reading book with them.
- Practise writing their name correctly.

*DON'T FORGET...*

Learning phonics and reading should be fun for both children and parents.

