

Phonics Guidance for Parents

As we enter a period of lockdown at home I would like to provide you with some guidance on how best to support your child in their learning of phonics which in turn supports their development in reading and writing.

Phonics is taught daily in school as a stand-alone lesson for at least 30 minutes allowing the children to learn new sounds, practise the ones they already know and apply the sound to both reading and writing. It would therefore support your child greatly if you could do a little practise every day at home with them.

Pronunciation of letter sounds is key in ensuring your child can decode words to read and spell accurately. Please find a link to correct pronunciation here to guide you further:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

At SIIIS we are currently using the programme of Letters and Sounds to deliver our phonics. This programme is split into 6 different phases and we expect each year group to work through specific phases, building on the ones before. Some children will work through them at a slightly slower pace but will none the less progress through all at some stage.

Nursery: Phase 1

This phase concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills. Listen to sounds around you in the environment. Read rhyming books and sing nursery rhymes. Can children hear patterns in the sounds of words? Make sounds with body parts or instruments. Talk in robot speak ("Can you see the **c-a-t**"; "Where is your **t-r-u-ck**").

Reception: Phase 2, 3 and 4

These phases are where the children learn that each sound (phoneme) is represented by a letter or group of letters (grapheme). This is the beginning of learning to read and write for themselves.

Year 1: Phase 5

Phase 5 is more complex as children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know.

Year 2: Phase 6

In year 2 the focus is more on the use of the application of phonics for spelling as most children are now able to read with some degree of fluency. Children learn more spelling strategies such as prefixes and suffixes as well as rules such as doubling consonants when adding a suffix, etc.

REMEMBER the best way to support your child in learning to read is to share a love of reading with them. Read often together, sing songs and recite nursery rhymes as often as they want. Repetition is good 😊.