

Phonics at Coalway Community Infant School

Introduction

At Coalway Community Infant School we place great emphasis on the development of early reading skills as this is key for children's overall success as a learner both now and in the future.

We are proud of the high standards that our children attain and the progress they make throughout their time with us.

The Teaching of Phonics

We use a systematic, multi-sensory approach to progressively and quickly develop the children's phonic skills. We use the DfES 'Letters and Sounds' programme and support this with a range of interactive resources such as games, computer activities, flashcards, presentations and multi-sensory materials which are designed and chosen to maximise the children's engagement and motivation.

'Letters and Sounds' is divided into six phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. Children have time to practise and rapidly expand their ability to read and spell words. They are also taught to read and spell 'tricky words' or common exception words which do not follow the usual rules of spelling.

Phase	Phonic Knowledge and Skills
Phase One (Nursery/Reception)	Activities are divided into seven aspects, including environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and finally oral blending and segmenting.
Phase Two (Reception)	Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each. Blending sounds together to make words. Segmenting words into their separate sounds. Beginning to read simple captions.
Phase Three (Reception)	The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Graphemes such as ch, oo, th representing the remaining phonemes not covered by single letters. Reading captions, sentences and questions. On completion of this phase, children will have learned the 'simple code', i.e. one grapheme for each phoneme in the English language.
Phase Four (Reception)	No new grapheme-phoneme correspondences are taught in this phase. Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump.
Phase Five (Throughout Year One)	Now we move on to the 'complex code'. Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know eg. ue, u-e, ew.
Phase Six (End of Year One, into Year Two and beyond)	Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters etc.

Coalway Community Infant School uses a varied selection of reading schemes to support the teaching of the phonics strategy, for example, Oxford Reading Tree's 'Floppy's Phonics', 'Songbirds', BBC Active 'Fun with Phonics' and Rigby Star 'Phonics'.