

## Phonics

### What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to: recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes; identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'; and blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word. Children can then use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

### Why Phonics?

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way – starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex – it is the most effective way of teaching children to read.

Children who have been taught phonics also tend to read more accurately than those taught using other methods, such as 'look and say'. This includes children who find learning to read difficult, for example those who have dyslexia.

### Phonics at Pathfinder

In EYFS and Year 1, we teach phonics through the StoryTime Phonics programme which teaches children the skills they need to learn to read and write within the context of real books and which is designed to give children a love of books and reading. We believe all children who receive good teaching of phonics will learn the skills they need to tackle new words. They can then go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently, and to read for enjoyment.

The programme engages children through interactive storytelling of books and provides actions for each phoneme to teach and reinforce the 44 phonemes they need to learn. The programme also teaches the common words children will come across when reading and

also encourages children to become aware of rhyme, alliteration and the rhythm of language.

StoryTime phonics is an inclusive, synthetic, whole class phonics, reading and writing programme which is based on letters and sounds. Talking bookmarks are used to encourage children to talk about the stories and develop a rich understanding of text.

The programme teaches four sounds a week, with Mondays used as a consolidation and revision session of previous learning. Phonics lessons are taught every day for 20 minutes. Further sessions are planned where necessary to give children extra practise and consolidation.

**In EYFS phonemes are learnt in the following order:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Phonemes</b>	<b>High Frequency Words</b>
<b>1</b>	s, a, t, p	
<b>2</b>	i, n, m, d	is, in, it, at
<b>3</b>	g, o, c, k	and
<b>4</b>	ck, e, u, r	to, the
<b>5</b>	h, b, f, l	l, be, no, go, has
<b>6</b>	ss, j, v, w	
<b>7</b>	x, y, z, ch	
<b>8</b>	sh, th, ng, ai	he, she, went, not, as, mum, dad, don't
<b>9</b>	ee, qu, igh, oa	we, me, be, said, so
<b>10</b>	short oo, long oo, ar, or	was, your, people, oh, are, or, like, do, about, look, then, them, it's
<b>11</b>	ur, ow, oi, ear	have, out, when, my, looked
<b>12</b>	air, ure, er	

## In Year 1 phonemes are learnt in the following order:

Week	Phonemes	High Frequency Words	Reading and Spelling
1	ay, ou, i-e, ea	came, made, make, gave, place	there, where, were, out, your
2	oy, ir, wh, a, as, o	the, who, wouldn't, couldn't	your, be, people, oh, no, go, they, said, come, some, like, so
3	zh, as, s, air, alternatives are, ear, ere	where, bear, there's, we're	they, said, come, some, like, so
4	a—e, oo	see, will, back, from, him, get, came, made, make, gave, place	
5	j as g when followed by e, l or y; l as le; ai as a; ee as e		little, one, Mr, they, love, says, what, oh, we, me, be, she
6	Alternative pronunciations of i, o, u, y		little, one, Mr, they, once, ask, was, what, were, have, our
7	oa as ow		was, what, were, have, push, pull, full, oh, their, people, Mr, Mrs, looked, called, asked, would, could, should
8	j as dge, z as se, k and sh as ch, spelling alternatives for sh		little, one, Mr, they, friend, school, well, fell, still, tell, looked, called
9	m/mb, n/kn/gn, r/wr	old, I'm, by, about, your, day, made, came, here, very, put, oh, their, Mrs, looked, called	asked, little, could, was, what, were, have
10	ay, ea, e-e, y, i-e, o-e	going, so	are, there, where, were, he, she, be, little, one, Mr, they
11	ew, u-e, oo		are, there, where, were, little, one, Mr, they
12	ar as a or as au, al, aw		are, there, where, were, little, one, Mr, they
13	/ur/ as ir, er, ear, or		are, there, where, were, little, one, Mr, they
14	Alternatives for ou (ou, oa, oo)		are, there, where, were, little, one, Mr, they
15	ure, er, ph	because, even, cat, mother, better, over, after, never, could, good, book, couldn't, fun, took, looking, no, have, some, were, when, go, like, come, there, what, so, one, little, do, out	little, one, Mr, they
16	ph, oo (short)	could, good, took, couldn't, fun, book, looking, and, like, do, about, because, even, cat, mother, over, after, never	