

Teaching and Learning Phonics at Dobwalls Primary School



Phonics is the way that we teach children to read and write. Children will learn letter sounds and how to blend them to make words.



Phonic terms your child will learn at school

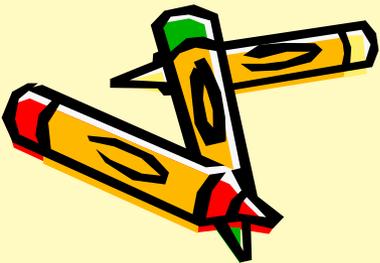
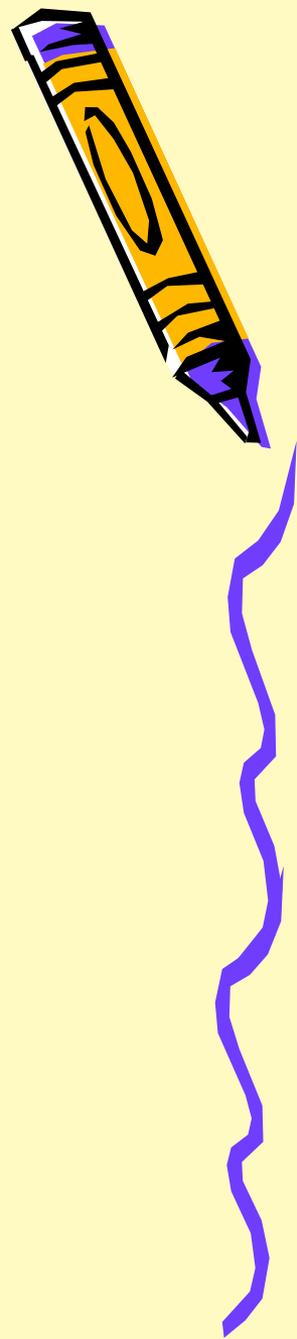
- **Phoneme:** The smallest units of sound that are found within a word.
- **Grapheme:** The written spelling of the sound, e.g. th
- **Diagraph (special friends):** Two letters that make one sound when read, e.g. sh
- **Split diagraph:** Two letters that make one sound, but are 'split' apart, e.g. **t**ime, ba**k**e
- **Trigraph:** Three letters that make one sound, e.g. igh
- **CVC:** Stands for consonant, vowel, consonant.
- **Segmenting:** Breaking up a word into its sounds (sound buttons).
- **Blending :** Putting the sounds together to read a word.
- **Red words or tricky words:** Words that cannot easily be decoded using phonics.



Saying the sounds

Sounds should be articulated clearly and precisely – this is really important for successful blending.

Don't use schwa!



Read Write Inc

- Read Write Inc is the programme that we use to teach phonics. To begin with, we will learn a new phoneme on most days.
- Each day there will be a 20-30 minute session to introduce the new phoneme. Children will then practice saying it, writing it and blending it in small groups. They will have the opportunity to revisit this throughout the day during their continuous provision.
- Your child will bring home a sheet explaining each new phoneme that they have been taught.
- Children will be assessed after each group of phonemes learnt. Where needed, additional sessions will be put in place.



How can I help at home?



Practice each new phoneme that comes home with your child. Refer to the phonemes regularly and re-cap on all sounds learnt.

Oral blending: the robot game Children need to practise hearing a series of spoken sounds and merging them together to make a word. For example, you say 'b-u-s', and your child says 'bus'.

Read with your child every day if possible.

Practice reading tricky (red) words.

Check Tapestry to check how your child is getting on in school.

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