



Mount Hawke Academy

Supporting our children with Phonic Spelling

In phonics we learn about the sounds that make up words in English and the letters that are used to spell them. At Mount Hawke Academy we follow a program developed by the government called 'Letters and Sounds' which provides a structure with which to introduce the sounds to children. There are 6 'phases' of 'Letters and Sounds'.

Phase 1

Is mainly covered before Reception year, and covers distinguishing different sounds, words, syllables and other foundations needed before individual letter sounds can be learnt.

Phase 2

Introduces all the single letter sounds that are used to make simple words like 'c-a-t' and which make up parts of other words.

Phase 3

Introduces some sounds which are made of two or three letters:
'sh', 'ch', 'th', 'ng', 'ai', 'ee', 'oo', 'oo', 'er', 'ur', 'ear',
These are mostly common sounds.

Phase 4

Introduces 'blends' where two or three consonant sounds are used together at the beginning or end of a word e.g. 's' & 'p' in spot; 's' & 't' in lost

Children who are confident in their knowledge of phase 2 (individual sounds) usually learn this phase quickly once they grasp the idea of blending.

Phase 5

There are more two and three letter sounds introduced:

It is in this phase that children begin to learn about the way that sometimes different sounds can be made with more than one string of letters e.g. 'ay', 'ai' 'a with 'magic e' all make the same sound.

They also learn that some letter strings make more than one sound e.g. ow in cow or mow

This phase takes a longer time to cover and includes skills and understanding that take a lot of practice.

Phase 6

Looking at other spelling patterns and choosing the correct spelling where there is more than one possible option.

