

# Phonics Meeting for Parents November 2025



# Why teach phonics?

- ▶ Phonics helps children to develop good reading and spelling skills
- ▶ The ability to read and write is a vital skill for all children, paving the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience
- ▶ We use a synthetic phonics approach called **'Essential Letters and Sounds'**

# What is synthetic phonics?

- ▶ **Synthetic phonics** is a way of teaching reading
- ▶ Children are taught to read letters or groups of letters by saying the sound(s) they represent - so, they are taught that the letter s sounds like s when we say it
- ▶ Children can then start to read words by blending the sounds together

# A Phoneme

This is the smallest unit of sound in a word.



There are 3 phonemes in the word  
**cat**

# Phase 1

- Environmental sounds (sirens, cars, birds etc.)
- Instrumental sounds (musical instruments)
- Body percussion (clapping, tapping, stamping)
- Rhythm and Rhyme (reading rhyming books, singing nursery rhymes)
- Alliteration (bouncy ball)
- Voice sounds (wheeee, boing boing)
- Oral blending and segmenting

# Phase 2

- ▶ Revisit phase 1
- ▶ Phonemes (*sounds*) and graphemes (*letters - what they look like*)
- ▶ VC words ('as' and 'on') and CVC words ('sat' and 'pin')


## Phase 2

- Sounds are introduced in sets
  - ❖ Set 1: s a t p
  - ❖ Set 2: i n m d
  - ❖ Set 3: g o c k
  - ❖ Set 4: c k e u r
  - ❖ Set 5: h b f ff l ll ss

# Phase 2

**ELS** Essential Letters and Sounds

## PHASE 2

 s	 a	 t	 p
 i	 n	 m	 d
 g	 o	 c	 k
 ck	 e	 u	 r
 ss	 h	 b	 f
 l	 ff	 ll	



# Phase 3

- **Digraphs** are further explored
- Digraphs are when two graphemes are put together to make one sound e.g. c-h together makes 'ch'

# Phase 3

**ELS** Essential Letters and Sounds

## PHASE 3

 j	 v	 w	 x	 y
 z	 zz	 qu	 ch	 sh
 th	 ng	 nk	 ai	 ee
 igh	 oa	 oo	 ar	 ur
 oo	 or	 ow	 oi	 ear
 air	 ure	 er	 ow	

# How to say the sounds

- Saying the sounds correctly with your child is extremely important
- The way we say the sound may well be different from when you were at school
- We say the shortest form of the sounds

To help with pronunciation of the pure sounds, visit the Early Years page of the school website for links to some videos

# Sounding out

- ▶ Recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example:

c-u-p

You may hear your child talking about 'robot arms'.

# Blending

- ▶ Merging or 'blending' the sounds in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word

c-u-p

Speedy recognition of the sound for each letter is really important, so your child can blend them to read words easily.

# Segmenting

- ▶ Using 'phoneme fingers' we can segment words to spell them.

We use one finger for each phoneme we can hear.



- ▶ Say it
- ▶ Stretch it
- ▶ Use our robot arms and blending hands
- ▶ Use our phoneme fingers
- ▶ Hear the phonemes

# Take a look at these

▶ c-a-t = 3 phonemes

▶ s-u-n = 3 phonemes

▶ d-o-g = 3 phonemes

▶ b-a-ck = 3 phonemes



# Harder to read and spell words

Review  
Now let's read these harder to read and spell words altogether.

into

go

the

of

- ▶ Some everyday words in English have tricky spellings and can't be read by blending
- ▶ These are sometimes called tricky words or common exception words
- ▶ These words just have to be learned by sight and flashcard-type games are a good way to practise these

# How can you help at home?

- ▶ Revisiting the **sounds** in zippy wallet regularly
- ▶ Playing games with the sounds and putting them up around the house
- ▶ Working on the **common exception words (tricky words)** sent home to learn
- ▶ Reading to your child and sharing books
- ▶ Hearing your child read for a short time on multiple occasions
- ▶ Praise your child for trying
- ▶ **Talk like a robot**
- ▶ Sing an alphabet song together
- ▶ Play '**I spy**'...this will help them to hear the initial sound in words
- ▶ Continue to read rhyming books and sing nursery rhymes
- ▶ Play rhyming games
- ▶ **Oxford Owl** - please don't feel you have to read online. The books are there if you would like extra reading material

If you have any questions or  
would like any advice, please  
contact us and we will be happy  
to help



Thank you for your continued  
support