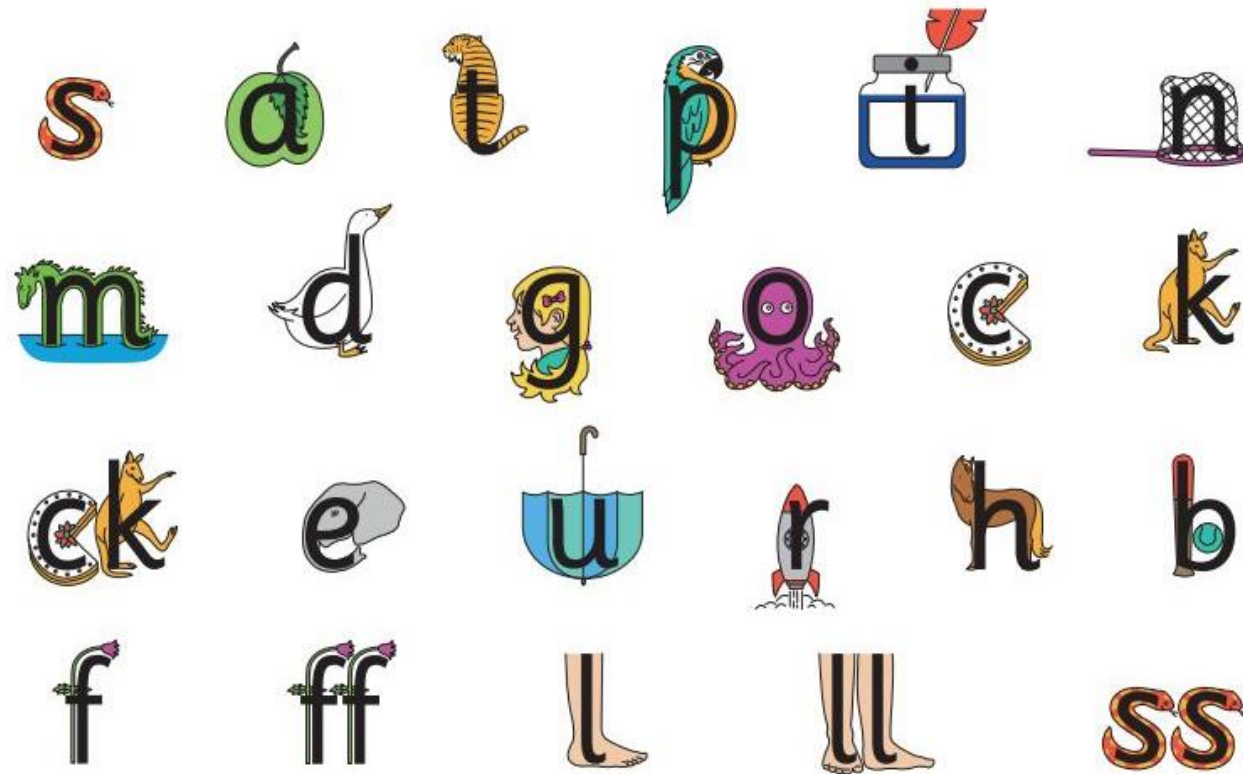


# Phonics



## How we teach phonics at Oakfield Academy.

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read and write by blending and segmenting individual sounds. Every letter and different combinations of letters make particular sounds for example the letter 's' makes a hissing like a snake.





At present, we follow the Letters and Sounds Programme of teaching which is split into 6 phases that systematically build on skills and knowledge of previous learning. Alongside Letters and Sounds we use THRASS, Toe by Toe, Jolly Phonics and Letter Land actions for learning sounds and use activities from Read Write Inc. to help develop letter formation.



Some pupils will take part in weekly phonics sessions in their English lessons. These sessions focus on key reading skills such as decoding to read words and segmenting the sounds in a given word to spell. During Phonics sessions we also teach pupils to read and write 'tricky words' also known as 'sight words.' These are words that you cannot sound out and pupils are just expected to remember how to read and write them.



We are also using phonics sessions to develop vocabulary by ensuring words are given a context and visual aids are provided to promote understanding of new language. Additionally, when we are revisiting sounds, words get progressively more challenging in order to continuously expand our pupils' vocabulary. Phonics sessions also promote reading for meaning by including an activity where pupils fill in missing Phonics words into sentences to show understanding. We encourage children to write sentences using the Phonics and spelling words, to show understanding and how they are used in a sentence correctly.

Spelling words are discussed in the first lesson. All meaning of the words are covered eg: Cell - cells found in the body, a jail cell and a cell phone. We also highlight the spelling choice/ Phonics sound of the week.

## Key terms we use in our teaching

Graph - one letter making one sound (e.g. a, b, c, d)

Digraph - two letters making one sound (e.g. sh, ch, ai, ea, ou, ow).

Split digraph - two letters making one sound but separated by a consonant (e.g. a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e)

Trigraph - three letters making one sound (e.g. igh, ear, air, ure).

Quadgraph - four letters making one sound (e.g. ough in bought)

Phoneme - is the spelling sound

Grapheme - is the letters used to create the phonics sound

Vowels - a, e, i, o, u.

Consonants - b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z



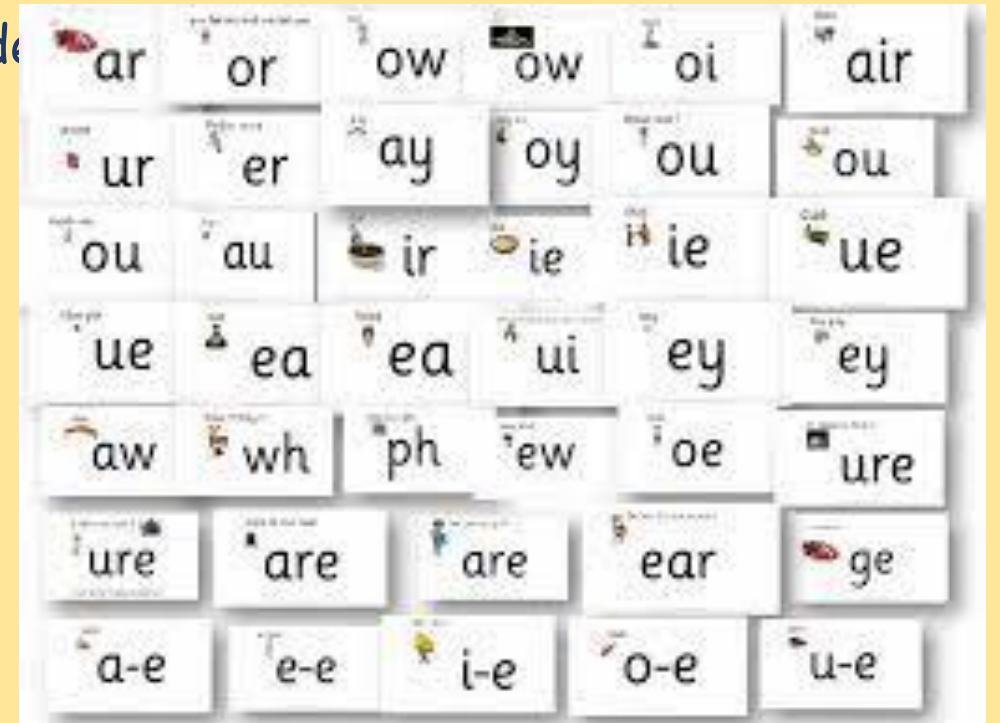
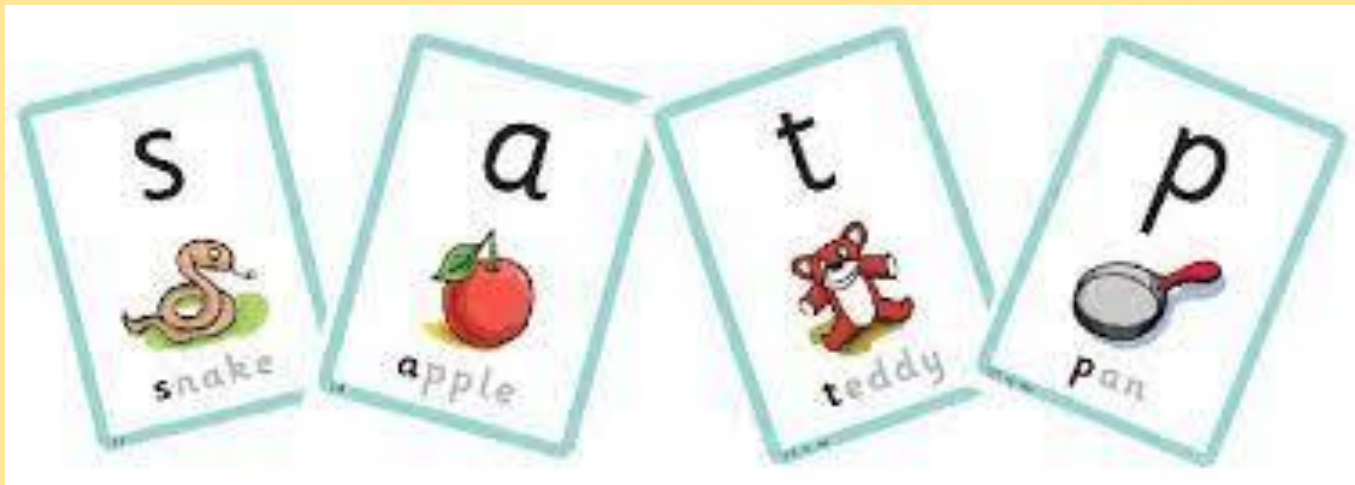


Schwa - a weak vowel sound in an unstressed syllable

Blend - to put or merge the sounds together to make a word (e.g. the sounds 'b' and 'l' are blended in the word blue.)

Segment - to break down the word into its individual sounds to spell (e.g cat can be split into the sounds c-a-t.).

Sound buttons - ways of visually isolating different sounds in a word. We use a dot under letters where one letter makes one sound and a line under quadgraphs.



# How you can help at home

1. Reading every night at home with your child.

*Reading Log are provided to record this valuable time*

[Parent video: Why read to your child? – YouTube](#)



2. Practise reading and writing tricky words. Use the Say, Name, Cover, Write and Check method.

*Say the word, name the letters in the word, cover the word, write the word and then check you have spelt it correctly.*

*If children know these they are more likely to gain speed and fluency in their reading.*

3. Practising your children's handwriting

*It is important children are forming their letters the correct way round.*

4. Phonics Games on line.      *See the links on the next slide.*



Other Useful links:

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UapRIdsWvpc&t=337s>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/Phase3Menu.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVycZ8257uo>

