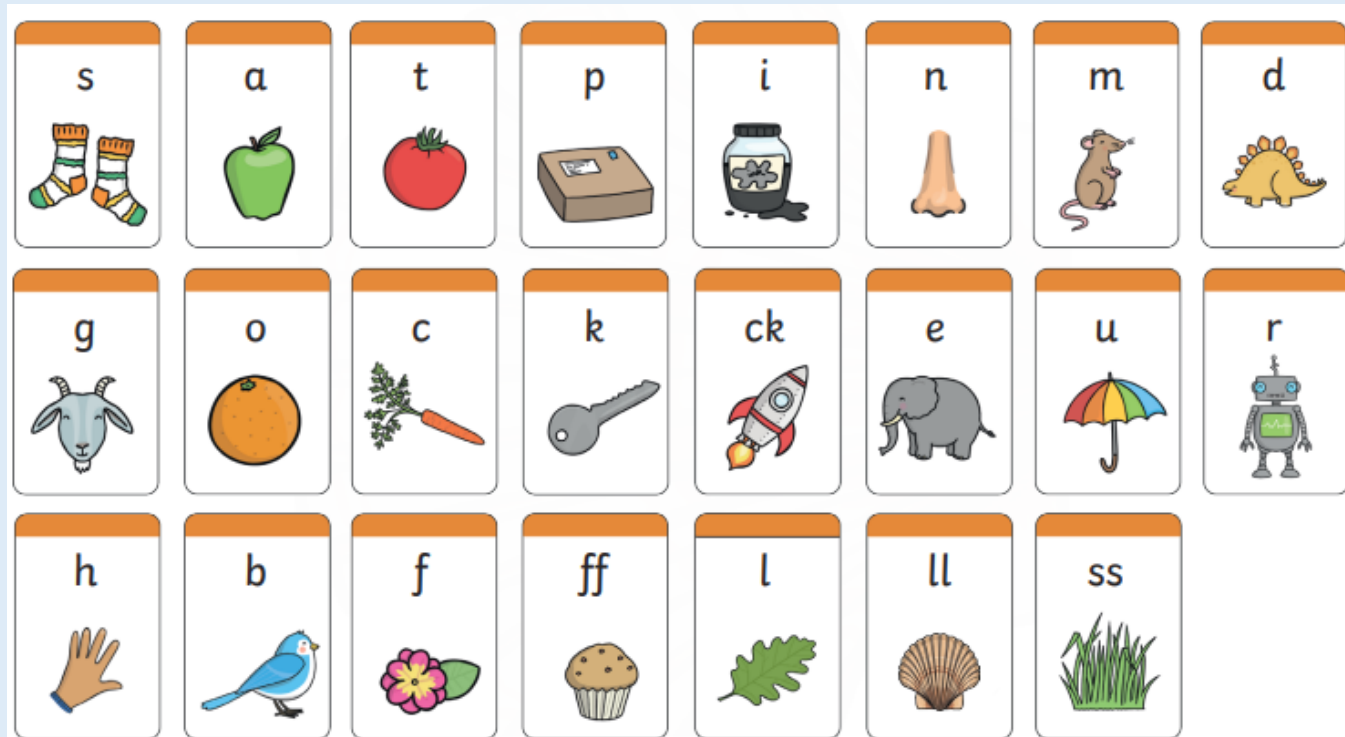


Phonics

A guide for parents

Phonics is the link between letters and the sounds they make



Did you know...?

The English language has:

26 letters



44 sounds

over 100 ways to spell those sounds



It is one of the most complex languages to learn to read and spell.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a method for teaching reading and writing.

It develops phonemic awareness – the ability to hear, recognise and use the sounds within words.

Learners are also taught the correspondence between sounds and the graphemes (spelling patterns) that represent them.

Phonics is currently the main way in which children in British primary schools are taught to read in their earliest years.

Children will also be taught other skills, such as whole-word recognition (these are often referred to as tricky words or common exception words).



Why Are Children Taught Phonics?

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way, starting with the easiest sounds (s, a, t, p) and progressing through to more complex sounds (a-e, as in cake), it is the most effective way of teaching children to read and also write.

Almost all children who receive good teaching of phonics will learn the skills they need to tackle new words. Children will learn to hear and recognise sounds in words and spell them correctly.

They can then go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently and to read for enjoyment.



Phonics
ee ur ow
wh y au

What program do we use?



In EYFS and KS1 we use the approved government scheme Phonics Bug Club which is based on the Letters and Sounds programme. At Hollinswood Primary School we intend to develop the children's phonological awareness, ability to segment and blend words and read tricky words by sight in order to become fluent readers.

The Jargon – A Quick Guide

phonics (also known as ‘synthetic phonics’) – The teaching of reading by developing awareness of the sounds in words and the corresponding letters used to represent those sounds

phoneme - Any one of the 44 sounds which make up words in the English language

grapheme – How a phoneme is written down. There can be more than one way to spell a phoneme. For example, the phoneme ‘ay’ is spelt differently in each of the words ‘w**ay**’, ‘m**ake**’, ‘f**ai**l’, ‘gr**ea**t’, sl**ei**gh and ‘l**ad**y’.

blending – Putting together the sounds in a word in order to read it, e.g. ‘f – r – o – g, frog’

segmenting – Breaking a word into its constituent sounds in order to spell them, e.g. ‘frog, f – r – o – g’

Phonic Bug Club progression



Phase	Unit	Focus	Decodable Words	Non-decodable Words
2	1	s a t p	at, as	
	2	i n m d	an, it, in, is, dad	
	3	g o c k	can, on, not, got	to
	4	ck e u r	mum, up, get	the, no, go
	5	h b f ff l ll ss	had, back, his, big, him, if, of, off, but	I, into
3	6	j v w x	will	me, be
	7	y z zz qu		he, my, by
	8	ch sh th ng	that, this, then, them, with	they, she
	9	ai ee igh oa oo/oo	look, see, too	we, are
	10	ar or ur ow oi	for, now, down	you, her
	11	ear air ure er		all, was
4		Adjacent consonants		
	12	(cvcc, ccvc, ccvcc, cccvc, cccvcc)	went, from, children, just, help	said, have, like, so, do, some, come, were, there, little, one, when, out, what

	13	zh wh ph	oh, their
	14	ay a-e eight/ey/ei (long a)	Mr, Mrs
	15	ea e-e ie/ey/y (long e)	looked, called, asked
	16	ie i-e y (long i)	water, where
	17	ow o-e o/oe (long o)	who, again
	18	ew ue u-e (long u) u/oul (short u)	thought, through
	19	aw au al	work, laughed, because
	20	ir er ear	Thursday, Saturday, thirteen, thirty
	21	ou oy	different, any, many
	22	ere/eer are/ear	eyes, friends
	23	c k ck ch	two, once
5	24	ce/ci/cy sc/stl/se	great, clothes
	25	ge/gi/gy dge	it's, I'm, I'll, I've
	26	le mb kn/gn wr	don't, can't, didn't
	27	tch sh ea. (w)a o	first, second, third
	28	Suffix endings: -ing -ed (morphemes)	clearing, gleaming, rained, mailed
	29	Suffix plurals: -s -es (plural morphemes)	man/men, mouse/mic, foot/feet, tooth/teeth, sheep/sheep
6	30	Prefix morphemes: re- un-	vowel, consonant, prefix, suffix, syllable

Phonics screening test

- Children in **Year 1** throughout the country will all take part in a phonics screening test during the week beginning 6th June. Children in Year 2 will be completing the test at the end of this term.
- The phonics screening test is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard

What happens during the test?

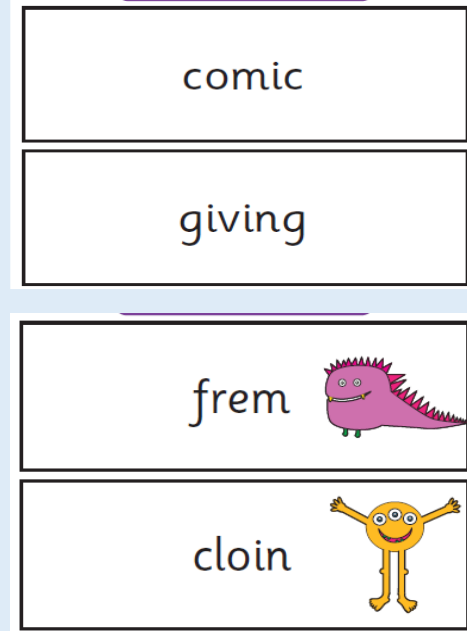
- The test contains 40 words.
- Each child will sit one to one and read each word aloud to a teacher.
- The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child; although all children will complete the check at their own pace.
- The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (we call these alien or nonsense words).
- You can also look at materials from previous years using this website:
<https://www.gov.uk/search/all?keywords=phonic+screening+check&order=relevance>

Reporting to parents:

At the end of the summer term we will report your child's results.

We will also confirm if the child has met the national standard pass mark. Previously this score has been 32 out of 40.

Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test in Year 2



Useful website to use at home:

Articulation of phonemes. This links models how to pronounce the letter sounds correctly:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s



Games

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<http://www.ictgames.co.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcqqqtfr>

Links to phonic games can also be found on the school website under the student learning links section.

Support at home



- If you are unsure of the phase your child is currently working on within school, please ask your child's class teacher.
- Your child is sent home two books to read a week, one which is linked to the phase they are working on within school and another to read for enjoyment.
- The books assigned for your children to read on Bug Club are matched to the phonic phase they are learning at school.
- When taught a new sound, the children will be given a sound card to add to their sound wallet. These cards can be used to practise the recall of sounds taught.