

Phonics Workshop for Year 1 parents 13.9.18



How and why we teach phonics

We use a structured system of teaching phonics, 3 times a day, 15 minutes each time. The children are taught in groups depending on their abilities so that we can teach each group at the level they need.

In that group we also teach **sight words**. These words are the most common words children will come across as they read. They can sound some of these words out e.g. “not”, but others they can’t e.g. “come”. We teach children to recognise these words by memory so that when they are reading they don’t have to stop and work out every word. Learning these sight words makes them fluent readers and helps them to enjoy their reading.

Phonics

At the beginning of Year 1 most children can blend three letter words. We call these words **cvc** (consonant vowel consonant). e.g. words like cat, pet, dig, jog, mug.

Parents can help their children to blend cvc words by reading books, playing games like hangman, changing end letter of words to make new words or making words with magnetic letters.

Then we move on to words with two consonants together like “**twig**” and “**hand**” and then three consonants together such as “**three**” or “**strap**”. You could ask your child, “How many words can you think of that start with **str**?”

We also introduce lots of new sounds in Year 1 where two or more letters make one sound. When two letters make a sound, we call this is a digraph e.g. **sh**, **oo**. Most of these will be familiar to you but some you may find less familiar. Ask your child to spot these sounds in their reading book.

The National Phonics Check takes place in June. All Year 1 children will attempt the test. If they do not achieve the target score they will retake the test in Year 2. Please ask your child’s teacher if you would like to know more about the check.

We are always very happy to talk to you about this or any other aspect of your child’s learning. Please come and ask if you have any questions about phonics or reading during the year.

ICT resources to help children to use phonics.



Apps

Zat phonics Sound Mat Zat Phonics Screening Check Forest phonics

PC Games

All of these games need to have an adult working along with the child to make sure that they are reading the word correctly.

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

Phase 3 and 4 games

<http://www.ictgames.com/forestPhonics/forestPhonicsOnline/index.html>

Picnic on Pluto

Pick a picture

Phoneme Pop

Dragon's Den

Buried treasure

Blending dragon

Dinosaur eggs

Cluster buster

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures> - long vowels

If you are unsure what sound a letter combination makes the following websites are useful resources which will say each sound clearly and blend it in a word. They are more useful for parents than children.

Tami Reis Frankfurt <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE>

"Mr Thorne does Phonics" <http://mrthorne.com/home/phonics/letters-and-sounds/>