

Parent Phonics Workshop information

What is phonics?

Phonics is one important strategy that children are taught in order to read and spell words.

Words are made up of small units of sound called phonemes.

Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word.

GPCs

Children are taught grapheme phoneme correspondences. This means they are taught all of the phonemes in the English language and how to write them down. They are taught in a particular order.

Blending

This is when children say the sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sounds together until they can hear what the word is. This skill is vital in learning to read.

Segmenting

This is the opposite of blending. Children are able to say a word and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up. This skill is vital in being able to spell words.

- English only has around 44 phonemes but there are around 120 graphemes or ways of writing down those 44 phonemes.

- Some graphemes are made up of more than one letter:

Digraphs are two letter graphemes e.g. ng

Trigraphs are three letter graphemes e.g. air

- Graphemes can represent more than one phoneme e.g. ow and oa

Terminology

Phoneme - The smallest unit of sound that you can hear within a word.

Grapheme - The letters used to represent the phoneme.

Blend - To list the phonemes within a word and put together quickly to form the word. (Taught as a strategy for reading unknown words.)

Segment - To split a word into its separate phonemes, as an aid to spelling.

Digraph - A grapheme with two letters.

Split digraph - When a digraph is split with a consonant in between. a_e, e_e, i_e, o_e, u_e.

Trigraph - A grapheme with three letters.

Syllable - A single, unbroken sound of a spoken (or written) word. They usually contain a vowel and accompanying consonants. Sometimes they are referred to as the 'beats.'

Phonics at Meridian

Phonics is taught for 15-20 minutes daily in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and other years as part of intervention groups where needed.

We follow the progression of the 'Letters and Sounds' document.

Video showing the correct articulation of phonemes:

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

Phase 1

Environmental sounds

Instrumental sounds

Body percussion

Rhythm and rhyme

Alliteration

Voice sounds

Oral blending and segmenting

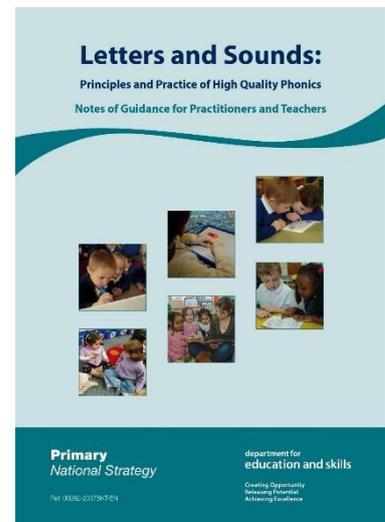
Reception - Phase 2

GPCs taught:

Set 1: s a t p

Set 2: i n m d

Set 3: g o c k



Set 4: ck e u r

Set 5: h b f/ff l/ll ss

Skills taught:

Read and write two and three letter words

Oral blending and segmenting

2 syllable words e.g. sunset

'Tricky words' taught:

Read: the to I go no

Reception - phase 3

GPCs taught:

Set 6: j v w x

Set 7: y z/zz qu

Consonant digraphs:

ch sh th ng

Vowel digraphs and trigraphs:

ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur ow oi ear air ure er

'Tricky words' taught:

Read: he she we me be was you her they all are

Spell: the to I no go into

Reception - phase 4

No new GPCs taught.

Skills taught:

Blending and segmenting adjacent consonants e.g. truck, help.

2/3 syllable words e.g. chimpanzee

'Tricky words' taught:

Read: some one said come do so were

out like little what when have there

Spell: he she we me be was my you her
they all are

Year 1 - phase 5

GPCs taught:

Alternative spellings of phonemes

ay ou ie ea

oy ir ur aw

wh ph ew oe au ey

Split digraphs - a_e e_e i_e o_e u_e

Alternative pronunciations of graphemes e.g.

i o c g u

ow ie ea er

a y ch ou

'Tricky words' taught:

Children learn to read and spell the first 100 high frequency words.

Year 2

Revision of phase 5

New spelling patterns and rules listed in the National Curriculum

'Tricky words' taught:

Children learn to read and spell all of the next 200
high frequency words.

The structure of a phonics lesson

1. Revisit - practise reading / writing previously learnt GPCs
2. Teach - learn a new GPC
3. Practise - practising reading and writing words with the new GPC
4. Apply - practise writing sentences with the new GPC