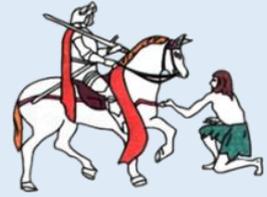




# Phonics Guide

December 2020



## What is Phonics?

Children are taught to read by breaking down words into separate sounds or 'phonemes'.

They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to read the whole word, for example, m-a-t makes 'mat'. They then also use this strategy to spell words.

Children also learn 'tricky' words which are words that cannot be sounded out or spelled using phonics strategies.

## How is phonics taught in school?

Children have a 20/25 minute phonics lesson each day and they are encouraged to use these strategies to read and write in other lessons.

In school we use a systematic approach called 'Letters and Sounds' to teach children to read using phonics. This is split into six phases, from learning about sounds at nursery to becoming fluent readers around age 7.

This year we have re-capped phase 3, completed phase 4 and have now started phase 5 phonics. We will be learning new sounds within this phase.

## How can you help at home?

Learn how to say the sounds (pure sounds).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

Use flashcards (available to download on [www.letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com) or make your own at home) to help your child learn how to blend sounds to read words. Also to read tricky words, at school we say "see it and say it".

**Read together** every day using school books, even for just ten minutes. Also re-read the books to encourage fluency and confidence.

There are e-books available on: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>

## Other helpful strategies:

### Sound Buttons

Another way to support you child with recognising the phonemes in a word is to get them to put the sound buttons underneath the letters in a word. This is something we do in class all of the time, so the children know what to do!

A dot '.', will go underneath a phoneme.

A dash '\_\_\_', will go underneath digraphs (2 letter sounds) and trigraphs (3 letter sounds).



Later in phase 5 we will introduce 'split digraphs'. A curved line will go underneath the split digraphs. If you encounter a word like this in the meantime it is helpful to explain it as this.



### Writing words using phonics:

In class we use sound mats to support spelling with phonics.

We say the word, use our phoneme fingers and write the word.

For example "queen", then we sound out the words by counting the sounds on our fingers " qu-ee-n" (3 sounds), then we write the words. If the children cannot remember what the sound looks like they can find it on the sound mats (see attached).

If it is a tricky word (common exception word). They need to find it on the word mat and write it.

### Other helpful apps and websites:

#### Apps

'Zat Phonics' (free app)

Phonics Bloom (free app)

Hairy Phonics (free app)

#### Websites

[www.letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com)

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

Songs on YouTube are fun to play as well!

# Sound and Word Mats:

## My Phase 2 Sound Mat

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

## My Phase 3 Sound Mat

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

## My Phase 5 Sound Mat

ay 	ou 	ie 	ea 	oy 	ir 	ue 	ue 
aw 	wh 	ph 	ew 	ew 	oe 	au 	ey 
a-e 	e-e* 	i-e 	o-e 	u-e 	u-e 		

\*even

twinkl visit [twinkl.com](https://www.twinkl.com)

## Year 1 Common Exception Words on Multicoloured Bricks

the	a	do	to	today	of	said	says	are
was	is	his	has	I	you	no	we	she
he	be	they	your	go	so	by	my	here
where	love	come	some	one	once	ask	friend	school
push	pull	full	house	our	me	were	put	there