

St Oswald's School

Phonics for Parents

Aims

- To share how phonics is taught at St Oswald's.
- To develop parents' confidence in helping their children with phonics, spelling and reading.
- To help parents to understand the terminology used in phonics teaching and learning.
- To outline the stages in phonic teaching and learning.
- To show examples of activities and resources we use to teach phonics.
- To share websites which parents can use to support their children.
- To give parents an opportunity to ask questions.

What is Phonics?

- Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to:
 - recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
 - identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make such as 'sh' or 'oo' and
 - blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Why Phonics?

- Based on research.
- Structured teaching of sounds from simplest to most complex.
- Phonics teaching results in most children being able to tackle unknown words more confidently and to read more accurately than those taught using other methods.
- This includes children who find learning to read more difficult.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

We are forced to rely on our knowledge of the alphabetic code, rather than memorization, to read the words.

This is not dissimilar to the experience of young readers.

Phonics Lessons

- In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 the children have a 15-20 minute daily session of phonics.
- Fast paced approach.
- Lessons may encompass a range of games, songs and rhymes.
- We use the Letters and Sounds planning document to support the teaching of phonics.
- There are 6 phonics phases which the children work through at their own pace.

Phase 1

1. Tuning into sounds
2. Listening and remembering sounds
3. Talking about sounds

Music and movement

Rhythm and rhyme

Sound effects

Speaking and listening skills

In Nursery the phonics learning is incorporated into everyday activities with one focussed session per group per week.

How can I help at home?

- Nursery rhymes, songs, action rhymes.
- Add sound effects to stories.
- Music and movement: rhythm, guess the instrument.
- Talking about sounds: listening walks, loud/soft, high/low, silly noises.
- Speaking and listening: silly sentences "Happy Harry hops", mimics, animal sounds.

Glossary of Terms

Phonemes: The smallest units of sound that are found within a word

Grapheme: The letter or letters that represent a phoneme

Diagraph: Two letters that make one sound when read

Trigraphs: Three letters that make one sound

CVC: Stands for consonant, vowel, consonant

Blending: Putting the phonemes together to say/read a word

Segmenting: Breaking up a word into its phonemes

Tricky words: Words that cannot easily be decoded using phonic knowledge

Phonemes and Graphemes

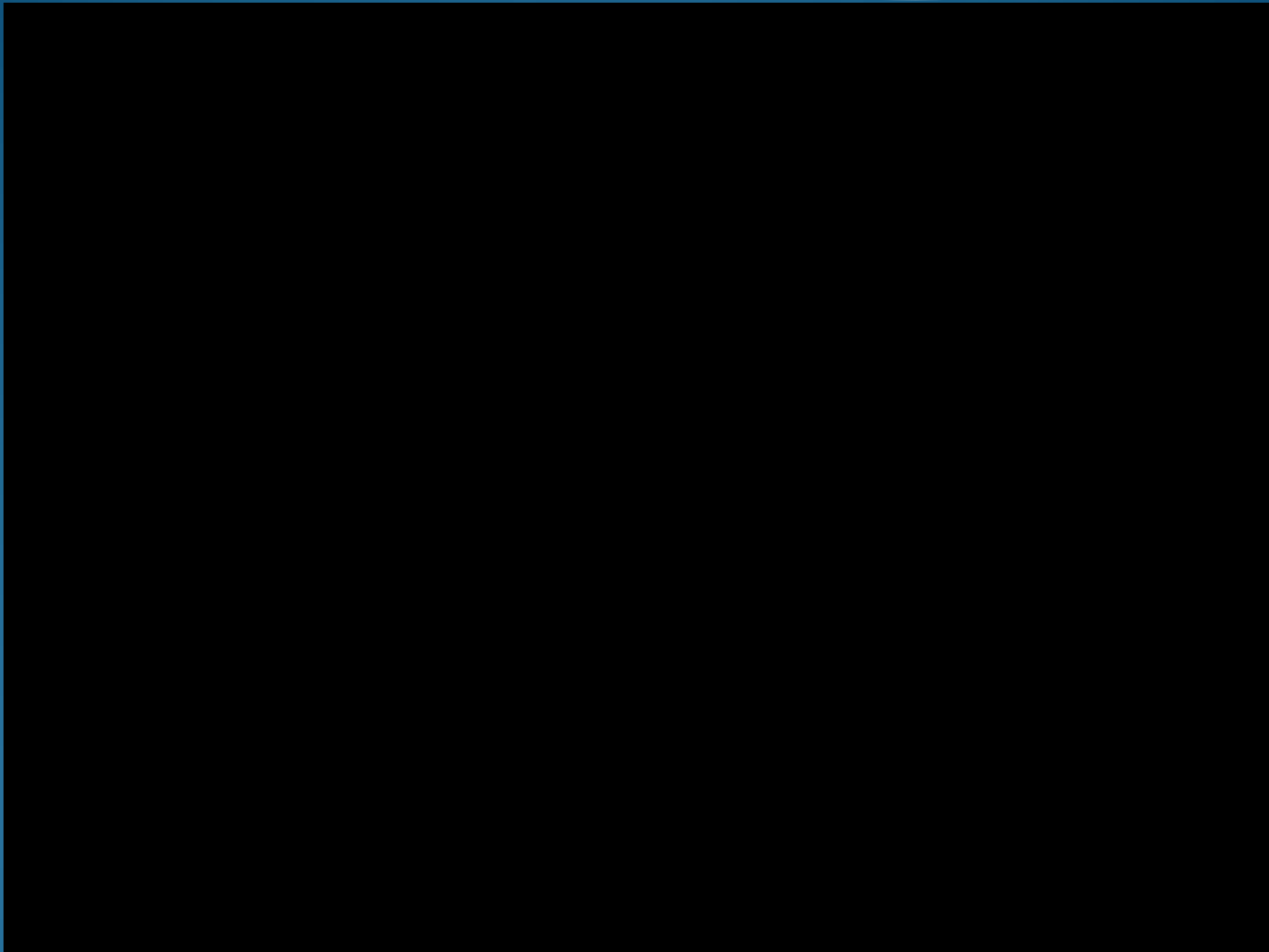
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Blending

Blending: Putting the phonemes together to say/read a word

/b/ /e/ /d/ = bed

/t/ /i/ /n/ = tin

/m/ /u/ /g/ = mug

Segmenting

Segmenting: Breaking up a word into its phonemes

bed = /b/ /e/ /d/

tin = /t/ /i/ /n/

mug = /m/ /u/ /g/

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUVTrMXyNwI>

Phase 2

Children will learn their first 19 phonemes:

Set 1: s a t p Set 2: i n m d


Set 3: g o c k Set 4: ck (as in duck) e u r

Set 5: h b l f ff (as in puff) ll (as in
hill) ss (as in hiss)

They will use these phonemes to read and spell simple "consonant-vowel-consonant" (CVC) words:
sat, tap, dig, duck, rug, puff, hill, hiss

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

Phoneme Frames



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Sound Buttons

The image displays three sound buttons arranged vertically. Each button is a rounded rectangle with a blue-to-white gradient and a black border. The top button contains the letters 'a' and 't' above two blue circular buttons. The middle button contains the letters 's', 'a', and 't' above three blue circular buttons. The bottom button contains the letters 'p', 'a', and 't' above three blue circular buttons. At the bottom left of the entire graphic is the URL www.com-munication4all.co.uk, and at the bottom right is a small logo featuring a yellow sun and a smiling face.

Tricky Words

the

to

I

no

go

into

These are words that cannot be decoded and are instead taught as 'tricky words'.

Phase 3

Children will learn another 26 phonemes:

j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu

ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi,
ear, air, ure, er

They will use these phonemes (and the 19 from Phase 2) to read and spell words such as:

chip, shop, thin, ring, pain, feet, night,
boat, boot, look, farm, fork, burn,
town, coin, dear, fair, sure

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/SentSubPhase3.html>

Tricky Words

he

she

we

me

be

was

you

they

all

are

my

her

These are words that cannot be decoded and are instead taught as 'tricky words'.

Phase 4

Phase 4 doesn't introduce any new phonemes. It focuses on reading and spelling longer words with the phonemes they already know.

These words have consonant clusters at the beginning: spot, trip, clap, green, clown
or at the end: tent, mend, damp, burnt

or at the beginning and end! trust, spend, twist

Tricky Words

said

have

like

so

do

were

there

little

one

when

some

come

out

what

These are words that cannot be decoded and are instead taught as 'tricky words'.

Phase 5

Teach new graphemes for reading
ay, ou, ie, ea, oy, ir, ue, aw, wh, ph, ew, oe,
au,
a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e

Learn alternative pronunciations of graphemes
(the same grapheme can represent more than one
phoneme):

Fin/find, hot/cold, cat/cent, got/giant,
but/put, cow/blow, tie/field, eat/bread,
farmer/her, hat/what, yes/by/very,
chin/school/chef, out/shoulder/could/you.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRyiOcqyEs8>

Split Digraph

tie

time

toe

tone

cue

cube

pie

pine

Tricky Words

oh

their

people

Mr

Mrs

looked

called

asked

could

These are words that cannot be decoded and are instead taught as 'tricky words'.

Year 1 Phonics Check

Compulsory testing in the Summer term of Year 1.

Child asked to read 40 words aloud.

Some known words and some may be new.

Some real and some nonsense words.

No time limit.

Usually just a few minutes.

Children who do not meet the standard, re-take the test in Year 2.

[phonics screening check sample materials.pdf](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJzZEBh1Bk>

Nonsense Words

tox

bim

vap

ulf

terg

fape

snemp

blurst

Phase 6

Phase 6 focuses on spellings and learning rules for spelling alternatives. Children look at syllables, base words, analogy and mnemonics.

Children also learn about past tense, rules for adding 'ing'; irregular verbs; 'tion' and 'sion' words.

<http://www.mrthorne.com/category/phase-6/>

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