

PHONICS AT EVERSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



WHAT IS PHONICS?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read and write by blending and segmenting individual sounds. Every letter and different combinations of letters make a particular sound.

At Eversley Primary School, we use a systematic approach to the teaching of phonics using the Letters and Sounds Programme. This is split into 6 phases that systematically build on skills and knowledge of previous learning. Alongside Letters and Sounds we use Jolly Phonics actions and songs to support children's learning of the sounds.

HOW IS PHONICS TAUGHT?

When children start Eversley Primary School in Reception they are introduced to daily Phonics sessions and these continue throughout Reception and Key Stage 1.

Children are taught the sounds that graphemes make and how to form these letters and write them. This then leads to segmenting and blending words in order to read and write them. Children are also introduced to tricky words that cannot be segmented and blended. We use a multi-sensory approach making learning fun and engaging. Children are taught to make the links between the sounds they can hear and the graphemes that they read and write.

Children have lots of opportunities to practice these skills during play and learning.

KEY TERMS WE USE IN OUR PHONICS TEACHING

- Phoneme – a single unit of sound.
- Grapheme – a written letter, or group of letters that represent a sound.
- Digraph – two letters that make one sound (e.g. sh, ch, ai, ea, ou, ow).
- Trigraph – three letters make one sound (e.g. igh, ear, air, ure).
- Split digraph – two letters make one sound but the letters have been split apart by another letter.
- Blend – to put or merge the sounds together to make a word (e.g. the sounds d-o-g are blended to the word 'dog'.)
- Segment – to break down the word into its individual sounds to spell (e.g. cat can be split into the sounds c-a-t and kick can be split into the sounds k-i-ck).
- Sound buttons – ways of visually isolating different sounds in a word. We use a dot under letters where one letter makes one sound and a line under digraphs or trigraphs.

HELPFUL VIDEO

A parent and carers guide to pronouncing phonemes (pure letter sounds):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTe5_EmOBHQ&list=PLuGr6z2H2KNHplHZwIA_raBPQPwIx29I4v&index=2

When supporting your children at home, please make sure you are using the pure sounds that are shown in the video. If you are ever unsure of how to say any of the Phonics sounds, please feel free to ask your child's teacher!

SOUNDS THAT WE LEARN

We teach our Phonics sounds in a particular order, so that the most frequently seen sounds are taught first.

By the end of Phase 2, children should be able to read some consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words (e.g. cat, pin, rip) and to spell them out.

In addition to the sounds that we teach, children also learn some tricky words that cannot be sounded out, such as 'the' and 'go'.

Children are taught songs and actions in school in order to support them with learning the Phonics sounds. Here is a link to the phase 2 songs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74klrFdOaPw>

As well as a link to all of the Phase 2 and 3 sounds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceKTgUxBGZc>

Phase 2

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

Phase 3

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

Phase 4

st	nd	mp
nt	nk	ft
sk	lt	lp
lf	lk	pt
xt	tr	dr
gr	cr	br
fr	bl	fl
gl	pl	cl

Phase 5

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

HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

In Reception your child will be given a Letters and Sounds booklet.

This will have sounds that your child is covering in class, these can be practised everyday at home to help your child's recognition. Short regular practice **really** makes a difference to your child's recall of the phonics sounds and will help them to make speedy progress.

It will also contain tricky words that your child will need to practise recognising as they cannot be sounded out using our phonics. It is really beneficial to your child if you support them with practising to read and write these regularly too!

When your child is beginning to confidently blend words, they will be given a Bug Club book to read at home. Please ask your child to read this to you lots of times, encouraging them to sound out and blend the words.

You can also read Bug Club phonics books online too! Your child's teacher will have your child's log in details.

THE YEAR 1 PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

In Year One your child will take part in the Phonics Screening Check.

The Phonics Screening Check is provided by The Department for Education and is meant to show how well your child can use the phonics skills that they have learned up to the end of Year 1, and to help to identify children who may need some extra phonics support. This takes place towards the end of Year 1 and more information will be provided closer to the time that your child will take part in this.