

## A Multi-Sensory Approach

To help the children remember the phonemes, and to ensure the sessions are lively and interactive, each sound has a picture linked to it and a saying either to help form the letter correctly or as the children get further up the school to help with alternative ways to spell a word.

e.g at the lower level the sound 'g' has a picture of of girl with long hair wearing glasses and the saying to help form the letter correctly is 'around the girl's face and down her hair with a curl.' The action is combing long hair for a girl.

e.g at a higher level there are three alternative ways of writing the sound 'ow' so each have their own saying.

**ow** - blow the snow (a picture of a polar bear blowing the snow to help remember.)

**oa** - goat in a boat (a picture of a goat in a boat.)

**o-e** - phone home (a picture of an alien phoning home)

When reading and writing you can do the actions and the sayings to help your child remember what the phoneme or grapheme is. Please ask your child's teacher for a copy of these to go with the phonemes your child is working on.

We find these are particularly useful when children are starting their phonics learning but, as they progress, their recognition becomes more automatic and they may not need to rely on using the actions and sayings as much.

## PARENT GUIDE

# Phonics Learning to read and write



We have put this booklet together to share our method of teaching phonics. This will help you to support your child with reading and writing at home.

## Organisation

In September we assess all of the children in EYFS, Year one and Year two on their current phonic knowledge. From this assessment we put the children into one of many phonic groups depending on their level rather than age. Each group then works for 15 minutes every day in their group.

## How do we teach phonics?

At 'Phonics Time' the children are taught the 44 phonemes listed below (a phoneme is a single unit of sound in a word).

s, a, t, p, i, n  
m, g, o, c, k  
d, e, u, r, h, b, f, l, j, v, w  
x y z qu ch sh th  
ue ng ai ee ie oa oo  
ar or er ou oi ear air ure

These 44 phonemes can be represented by more than 1 grapheme (the way a phoneme can be written). i.e. The phoneme ai can be written as.....

**ai** in train  
**ay** in play  
**a\_e** in cake  
**a** in station

We also teach the children to form the letters correctly. Please model this at home and write in lower case rather than capitals.

## Pronunciation

It is crucial that the phonemes are pronounced in the correct way. The children need to say them correctly in order to blend sounds when reading and segment sounds when writing. If you are unsure of how to pronounce any of the 44 phonemes, please ask a member of staff or look up 'Mr Thorne does phonics' on YouTube for great games and correct pronunciation.

## Sounding out, segmenting and blending

When the children know some of the phonemes, they are ready to start blending and segmenting.

**Blending** (for reading) is recognising letter sounds in a written word and merging them in the order in which are written to pronounce the word, or reading.

E.g. c + a + t = cat  
sh + i + p = ship

**Segmenting** (for segmenting) is identifying individual sounds in a spoken word and writing down letters for each sound/ phoneme to write the word.  
As they progress, their recognition becomes more automatic and they may not need to rely on using the actions as much.