

Phonics

We have started teaching letters and sounds to the children. Jolly Phonics is the programme that is used to teach your child the phonemes (sounds) that each letter or combinations of letters make. Each phoneme has a song and an action to help the children remember them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VknDII0Zc4>

Soft sounds -

It is vital that children are taught to use the 'soft sound' for each letter. For example: the phoneme (sound) is 'sss...' not 's-u-h'. This will help them when we move onto blending their sounds to make words. Click the link here for all the phase 2 'soft sounds'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8KR8ThoPl4>

Letter formation -

We practise writing each grapheme (letter) paying particular attention to the correct letter formation. It is vital that the children start every letter in the correct way to ensure they are fully prepared for Year 1 where they join their handwriting.

At school we use our 'phonics finger' to form our letters in the air, on the carpet and on our friends back! There is a letter formation sheet in the phonics file on our General page for you to take a look at. Letter formation can be practised in lots of different ways, take a look at the pictures for some super ideas.



Pencil grip -



When we practise writing our sounds using pens/ pencils, it is really important that we use the correct pencil grip. We use a 'pincer' grip so that the children make a 'froggy legs' motion with their fingers. If your child does not hold their pencil this way it is important to strengthen the muscles in their hands as their fingers are not strong enough yet for this grip. Playdough, using tweezers, intricate Lego building, threading, fastening zips and buttons and using pegs are all good for strengthening those fine motor muscles. There are some great pictures of different phases of pencil grips in the files on the General Teams page.

If you want to find out more about the process in which we take to begin to read and write words once we are confident with our single sounds have a look at the next page!

Mechanics of reading -

Blending - Initially we will learn to blend orally. Children need to be able to hear the separate sounds in a word and then blend them together to say the whole word. e.g. an adult says b/u/s and the child has to work out that these phonemes together make the word bus.

How can I help at home?

- Play games with your child
- I-Spy but with the whole word e.g. "I can see a c/a/t"
- Can you talk to the robot? Have words which you have to teach the robot in 'sound talk'. - m/o/p this is a mop.

When your child can blend orally, we can move on to blending graphemes together. E.g. S-u-n = sun

How can I help at home?

- Use magnetic letters on the fridge to form words.
- Foam letters in the bath.
- Make it fun - use letters they have learnt at school or already know.

Segmenting - The chopping up of words to spell / sound it out.

This begins with the child hearing one sound within a word, then initial and end sounds then all sounds in a word.

How can I help at home?

- Play games with your child
- I-Spy
- Counting sounds
- Rhyming words
- Take away a sound

Tricky words-

Some words we call 'tricky words' these cannot be sounded out or 'blended together' orally. These are words such as 'to, go, no, I, the, he, she, we, me, be, they, said.' The best way to learn these is to just keep practising them! As we move through the year we will begin looking at these tricky words through a song which can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvMyssfAUx0>

I hope this helps give a little bit of an insight to what we do in our phonics sessions!

I do appreciate that this is an awful lot of information to take in so please do ask if you are unsure of anything or need any more information.

Thank you for your continued support,
Mrs Renton