

Buckingham Primary School

Phonics: A guide for parents



Phases 2-5

An overview of Synthetic Phonics

Synthetic Phonics is a method of teaching reading and writing the English language by developing children's phonemic awareness - this is the ability to hear, identify and manipulate phonemes in order to teach the correspondence between these sounds and the spelling pattern (graphemes) that represent them.

English spelling is based on the alphabetic principle. Letters are used to represent speech sounds - phonemes. For example, the word *p a t* is spelled with 3 letters each representing a phoneme.

Synthetic Phonics involves examining every letter within the word as an individual sound in the order which they appear and then blending those sounds together to produce a spoken word.

All children are individuals and therefore develop at different rates. 'Department for Education, 2012.

With this in mind, we are passionate about meeting the individual needs of your child with regards to phonics teaching.

PHASES OF PHONICS

Phase 2:

When children are ready, they are introduced to grapheme - phoneme correspondence.

Children are taught how to write a letter and the sound that it makes.

s a t p (set 1)

i n m d (set 2)

g o c k (set 3)

ck e u r (set 4)

h b f,ff l,ll ss (set 5)

The letters of the alphabet are not taught in alphabetical order and neither are the letter names at this stage. In order to learn the sound that a letter makes, it is not yet necessary to know the name; this comes later during Phase 3, however, if your child wishes to talk about letter names, of course do so with them.

By using the set 1 & 2 letters, your child will learn simple VC and CVC words.

E.g at, in, pat, pin, sat, tap, din, mat

Pure Sounds

Synthetic Phonics pays particular attention to pure sounds bearing in mind the many regional accents of spoken English. We pronounce 'c a t' in its pure sound, rather than kuh- ah-tuh.

Phase 3:

During this phase, children are taught the remaining letters of the alphabet, and are introduced to vowel and consonant digraphs. These are sounds with 2 or 3 letters that make one sound, for example, 'sh' 'ai' 'igh' 'air'

j v w x (set 6)

y z,zz qu (set 7)

ch sh th ng (consonant digraphs) ai

ee oa oo igh oi (vowel digraphs)

ar or ur ow (clown) not yet 'show'

ear (year, fear) air (pair, fair)

ure (sure, pure) er (hammer, dinner)

In regards to the vowel digraphs, children are now taught the letter names of the alphabet, and will therefore learn that 'a' in *cat*, can be pronounced like its letter name in *rain*. We teach the children that, 'when 2 vowels go walking, the first does the talking'

Other examples of this rule: *tree* *coat*

Children will also further practise CVC blending and segmenting and will apply their knowledge to reading and spelling simple 2 syllable words and captions.

High-Frequency Words

Often referred to as *sight* or *key* words, these are common words that children will learn throughout the phases, as they build their knowledge of different sounds.

For example, during Phase 2, children are introduced to simple VC and CVC words, it, at, an, dad, mum, got.

Some words in English have an irregular spelling and therefore cannot be read by blending - the, was, said, one. These are known as the tricky high-frequency words, which children have to learn and remember.

As children progress through the phonics phases, their knowledge of these words will increase.

Phase 4:

The purpose of this phase is to consolidate children's knowledge of graphemes in reading and spelling words containing adjacent consonants and polysyllabic words

- st ar

ch e st

l u n ch-b o x

Phase 5:

During phase 5, children are taught to recognise and use alternative ways of pronouncing the graphemes and spelling the phonemes already taught.

In the summer term of Year 1, children undergo the National Phonics Check. More details will be given nearer the time.

Alternative Spelling

For example, in Phase 3, children were taught the vowel digraph 'ai' (rain, wait) The 3 alternative ways to spell this sound will be taught at this stage:

ay (day) a (bacon) a_e (name, made, snake) 'a_e' is known as a split digraph.

Alternative pronunciation

In Phase 2 and 3, children were taught the sound that 'g' makes as in dog, get. They are now taught that it can sound as a 'j' in giant, gem, gym.

In general, Phase 5 will last for most of Year 1.

We hope that you find this information useful, and we look forward to working with you and your child in the Phonics learning. Thank you for your time.

Year 1 Team September 2018

List of Apps and websites for your child to enjoy Phonics.

Websites	Apps for ipad/iphone
www.phonicsplay.co.uk www.espresso.co.uk www.education city.co.uk www.bbc.co.uk/literacy	abc pocket phonics Hooked on phonics Phonics genius

