

Phonics

In the beginning of Reception we teach Phase 2 phonics, which introduces grapheme/phoneme (letter/sound) correspondence. Letters and sounds are introduced one at a time. Children are encouraged to sound out and blend words. For example they will learn to blend the sounds **s – a – t** to make the word 'sat'. They will also start to segment words to read and understand, by hearing the letter sounds at the start, middle and end of a word.

Glossary of terms

Phoneme – The smallest single sound in a word (e.g. the /c/ or /a/ or /t/ in cat)

Grapheme – A letter or sequence of letters that represent a phoneme. (e.g. /a/ /ai/)

Digraph – A grapheme containing 2 letters that make just 1 sound (phoneme) (e.g. /sh/ example shut)

Tri graph – A grapheme containing 3 letters that make just one sound (phoneme) (e.g /igh/ example light)

Blending – Merging the individual phonemes together to pronounce a word when reading (e.g. /c/ /a/ /t/ - cat)

Syllable – One or more letters representing a unit of spoken language consisting of a single uninterrupted sound (e.g. sun-day)

Here are a few websites which may help when learning with your child at home.

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/alphablocks

www.letters-and-sounds.com

www.jollylearning.co.uk