

# Phonics

At St Richard's CE Primary School, we teach phonics using the government recommended programme, 'Letters and Sounds'. 'Letters and Sounds' is a fast paced, progressive phonics programme that takes children through six phases.



Phonics is taught in daily thirty minute sessions through a variety of whole class and small group activities. All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are grouped according to the phase they are working at. This allows children to work through the phases at different rates. The expectation is that children will be working at Phase 6 when they leave Year 2. Any children who do not reach the required level will continue to work through the phases into Key Stage 2.

Below is a list of what your child will be taught at each phase.

## Phase 1 (Nursery/ Reception)

Children are encouraged to listen to sounds in their environment. Ask your child questions e.g. 'What can you hear? How do you know?'

## Phase 2 (Reception)

Children learn one set of letters a week. The children practice blending two and three letter words for reading and segmenting words into their sounds (phonemes) for writing. Tricky words cannot be read phonetically so need to be memorised.

- Set 1: s a t p
- Set 2: i n m d
- Set 3: g o c k
- Set 4: c k e u r
- Set 5: h b f,ff l,ll ss
- Tricky Words: the, to, no, go, l, into.

## Phase 3 (Reception/ Year 1)

Following on from Phase 2, children continue to learn one set of letters a week.

- Set 6: j v w x
- Set 7: y z,zz qu

After these 7 sets of letter sounds have been learnt, the following digraphs (two letters that make one sound) and trigraphs (three letters that make one sound) are taught in addition to tricky words:

- ch sh th (as in that) th (as in think)ng (as in strong) ai (as in paid) ee (as in week) igh (as in night) oa (as in coat) oo (as in wood) oo (as in moon) ar (as in car) or (as in torn) ur (as in turn) ow (as in cow) oi (as in coin) ear (as in hear) air (as in fair) ure (as in pure) er (as in her)
- Tricky Words: the, to, no, go, l, into.

### Phase 4 (Reception/ Year 1)

Children are taught to blend and segment a variety of longer words and consolidate all they have learnt so far.

- CCVC (consonant consonant vowel consonant) words e.g. Frog
- CCVCC words e.g. crisp
- CCCVCC words e.g. chink
- Tricky words: said, have, like, so, do, some, come, where, there, little, one, when, out, what.

### Phase 5 (Year 1/ Year 2)

Children are taught the alternative spellings for the sounds (phonemes) they learnt in Phase 3.

- ay (day) oy (boy) wh (when) a-e (make)
- ou (out) ir (girl) ph (photo) e-e (these)
- ie (tie) ue (blue) ew (new) i-e (like)
- ea (eat) aw (saw) oe (toe) o-e (home)
- au (Paul) u-e (rule)

Children are also taught alternative sounds (phonemes) for spellings they already know:

- i (fin, find) ow (cow, blow) y (yes, by, very)
- o (hot,cold) ie (tie, field) ch (chin, school, chef)
- c (cat,cent) ea (eat, bread)
- ou (out,shoulder,could)
- g (got, giant) er(farmer,her)
- u (but, put) a (hat, what)
- Tricky Words: oh, their, people, Mr, Mrs, looked, called, asked, could.

### Phase 6 (Year 2)

This phase mainly focuses on teaching spelling. Children look at how to use and spell words in the past tense. They learn rules to help them make correct spelling choices, learn how to add suffixes eg ed, ing, ly, est, ful, s, es and how to proof read.

Some useful website for all phonics phase games can be found at:

- [www.familylearning.org.uk](http://www.familylearning.org.uk)
- [www.ICTgames.co.uk](http://www.ICTgames.co.uk)
- [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)
- [www.letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com)

