

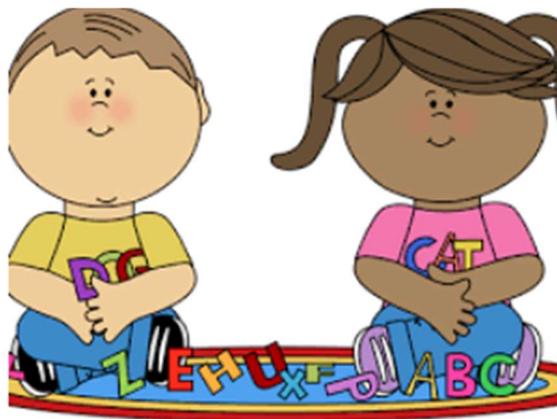
What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of learning to read by decoding words into voice sounds, rather than simply memorising words. So children will learn that the letter T has a name, but also a sound, as in Tin or Toe. Words are broken up into small units of sound, called phonemes.

Children learn the sound and then the alternative ways of representing those sounds. So, for example, the sound 's' can be in snake, scent or ceiling. And the sound 'ai' as in rain, can also be 'ae' as in aeroplane, 'ay' as in play, 'aigh' as in straight, and so on.

Children who learn to decode will master the skill of basic reading quicker, which means they can move on to the actual enjoyment of reading and comprehension sooner.

Year 1 phonics screening checks take place in the early summer in schools in England. This is a one-to-one check, with children asked to read 40 words, some of them made-up [pseudo] words, to check their decoding skills, their ability to put sounds to letters and to blend the sounds into words.



Please contact the following person for any additional information:

Mrs Karen Spencer
English Coordinator
Moat Farm Infant School
Brookfields Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B68 9QR

Moat Farm Infant School

Phonics

Information Leaflet
for
Parents and Carers





Phonics at Moat Farm Infants

Letters and Sounds is a six-phase programme designed to help teach children to read and spell with phonics. It is split into 6 phases:

Phase One (Nursery /Reception)

The aim of this phase is to foster children's speaking and listening skills as preparation for learning to read with phonics. Parents can play a vital role in helping their children develop these skills, by encouraging their children to listen carefully and talk extensively about what they hear, see and do.

Phase Two - Four (Reception / Year One)

During Phase Two to Four, children learn:

- How to represent each of the 42 sounds by a letter or sequence of letters.
- How to blend sounds together for reading and how to segment (split) words for spelling.
- Letter names e.g. through an alphabet song.
- How to read and spell some high frequency 'tricky' words containing sounds not yet learnt (e.g. they, my, her, you).

Phase Five (Year 1/ Year 2)

Children learn new ways of representing the sounds and practice blending for reading and segmenting for spelling.

Phase Six (Year 2)

During this phase, children become fluent readers and increasingly accurate spellers.

Learning Letter Sounds

Spoken English uses about 42 sounds (phonemes). These phonemes are represented by letters (graphemes).

The alphabet contains only 26 letters however a sound can be represented by a letter (e.g 's') or a group of letters (e.g. 'th' or 'igh')
Once children begin learning letters, they are used as quickly as possible in reading and spelling words. Children can then see the purpose of learning letters. For this reason, the first six letters taught are 's', 'a', 't', 'p', 'i', 'n'.
These can immediately be used to make a number of words such as 'sat', 'pin', 'pat', 'tap', 'nap'

The charts below show the order for teaching the letter sounds as suggested by the 'Letters and Sounds' programme phases 2 -3 (Reception Year). The charts also give an example of a word to indicate how to pronounce each sound.

Phase 2 (1 set taught per week):

Set 1	s	a	t	p
	sun	ant	tap	pen
Set 2	i	n	m	d
	in	net	map	dog
Set 3	g	o	c	k
	go	on	cat	kit
Set 4	ck	e	u	r
	duck	egg	up	rat
Set 5	h	b	f,ff	
	hen	bat	fan, puff	
	l,ll	ss		
	leg, bell	miss		

English at Moat Farm Infant School

Phase 3:

Set 6	j	v	w	x
	jet	van	wig	box
Set 7	y	z,zz	qu	
	yes	zip, buzz	quiz	
ch	chip	ar	farm	
sh	shop	or	for	
th	thin then	ur	hurt	
ng	ring	ow	cow	
ai	rain	oi	coin	
ee	feet	ear	dear	
igh	night	air	fair	
oa	boat	ure	sure	
oo	boot look	er	corner	

Phase 4:

The purpose of this phase is to consolidate children's knowledge of graphemes in reading and spelling words containing adjacent consonants (e.g. stop) and polysyllabic words (e.g. bedroom).

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