

Phonics in Reception

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. At Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery School we follow the *Letters and Sounds* framework and use *Storytime Phonics* as a resource to help us deliver our phonics lessons. In Reception, the children will be working through Phase 2, Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the *Letters and Sounds* framework.

Oral Blending and Segmenting

Before the children begin Phase 2, it is important that they are able to hear individual sounds (known as phonemes). We teach the children 'oral blending' which is when an adult says the sounds in a word and the child blends the sounds together and says the whole word. For example, the adult says "c-a-t" and the child says "cat". Until your child can do this confidently, they will find it very difficult to read written words.

'Oral segmenting' involves the adult saying a word and the child saying the individual sounds in the word. For example, the adult says "dog" and the child says the sounds "d-o-g". Until your child can do this, they will find it very difficult to write words.

Phase 2

In Phase 2, 19 sounds will be introduced one at a time. The children will be taught how to say each sound correctly, what the sound looks like when it is written down (known as a grapheme) and how to form that letter correctly when writing it. The children will also start to read and write words with the sounds in. The children will learn to 'sound out' a word as they read, by saying each sound in turn, and then saying the whole word. The children will also be encouraged to write words, by 'sounding out' the word they want to write first, and then having a try at writing the letters in the correct order. Many children find writing harder, as they have to remember how to write the letters correctly as well as thinking about the sounds that they need in each word. It is important that the children learn to say each sound correctly. For example, saying "mmmmmm" instead of "muh". If you are unsure of the correct way to pronounce a sound, please look on the Oxford Owl website. There is also lots of useful information on there about phonics and reading.

https://cdn.oxfordowl.co.uk/2016/05/05/20/22/32/561/20097_content/index.html?id=ae

Phase 3

In Phase 3, the children will learn some more sounds. Some of these have two letters in them (known as a digraph), such as 'ch' and 'oa', whilst others have three letters in (known as a trigraph), such as 'igh' and 'ear'. The children will learn to say the right sound when they

see it written down, read the sounds when they are in words, and remember how to write the sound so that they can spell words correctly.

Phase 4

In Phase 4, the children will not learn any new sounds, but they will be taught how to read and write words with more sounds in them, for example, 'thank' and 'scrunch'.

Tricky Troll Words

During all of the phases, the children will also learn some 'Tricky Troll' words. These are words which the children cannot sound out, because the words will not sound right. For example, 'the', 'no' and 'go'.

Please use the Storytime Phonics sound mats and action sheets to support your child with their phonics work. The Reception teachers will send out further information about which sounds are being taught so that you can help your child at home. Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher if you need any help in supporting your child with their reading or writing.

For more information you could also look at these websites:

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/> and search for 'Letters and sounds for home and school'