



Thomas Bullock Church of
England Primary Academy

Phonics for parents EYFS information session

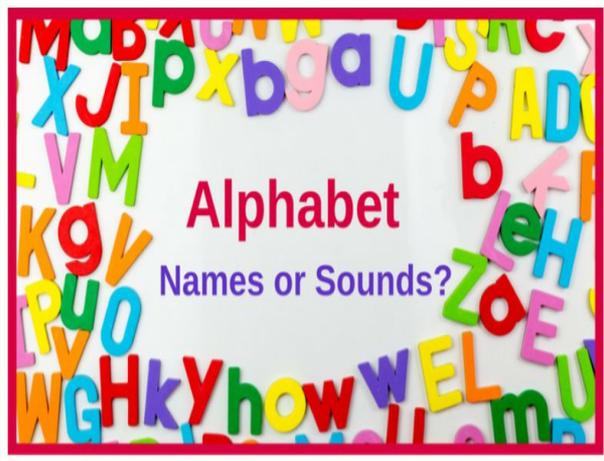
This evening we will:

- Share how phonics is taught
- Teach the basics of phonics and some useful phonics terms
- Develop your confidence in supporting your child's phonics learning
- Outline the different stages in phonics development
- Share examples of resources and activities we use in school to teach phonics
- Chance for questions



Phonics is the main strategy supporting word recognition and underpins a lifelong learning of reading, writing and spelling. In phonics, children are taught to connect letters of the alphabet to the sounds they make - blending them together from left to right, to make a word. Phonics supports children to identify individual sounds within words and to segment these for spelling.

It's important that over time, children learn both the letter name and the letter sound. Initially, however, we focus on the sounds so that children can hear these within words.

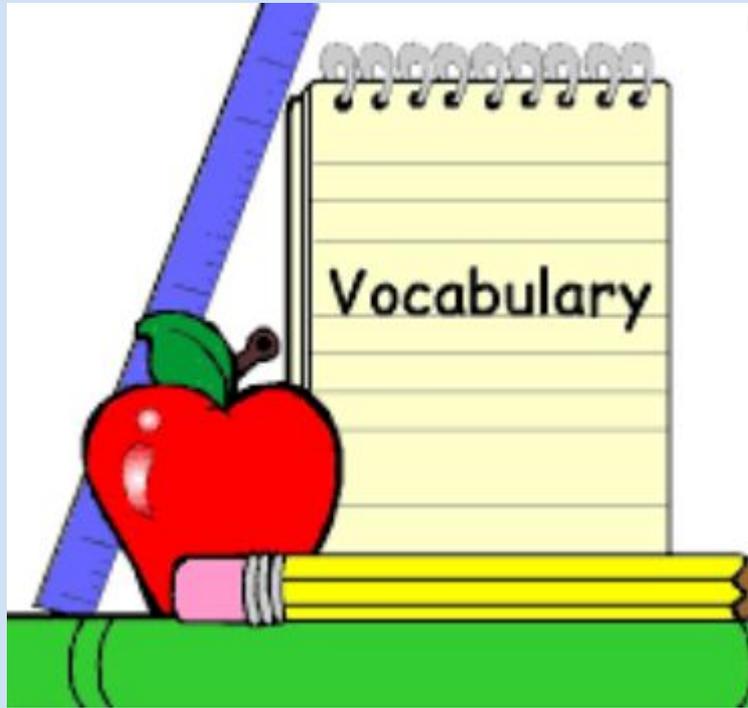


Correct pronunciation of sounds is really important. We need to be sure that we are using the pure sounds and not adding a 'uh' on.

Here's a short video to demonstrate clear sounds. It can take some practising to remember to forget the 'uh' but does make a big difference!

<https://www.phonicbooks.co.uk/2011/03/13/how-to-say-the-sounds-of-letters-in-synthetic-phonics/>

(1minute 45seconds in)



Key vocab & terminology

Phoneme

Phonemes are the smallest units of sounds in words.

Eg. c - a - t

Grapheme

A letter or set of letters used to write one sound.

Eg. 'f' in fun or 'ff' in huff

Blending

Recognising the letter sounds in a written word. Eg c-a-t

‘Pushing the sounds together’ to pronounce the word ‘cat’

Segmenting

Chopping up the word for spelling; the opposite of blending. Sometimes referred to as 'sounding out'.

Eg. tap = t-a-p

Digraph

Two letters (graphemes) together that make one sound (phoneme).

Eg. ch-o-p

Trigraph

Three letters (graphemes) together that make one sound (phoneme).

Eg. n - igh - t in 'night'

'Robot Arms'

Unofficial terminology!

We use 'robot arms' as we sound out, blend and segment. With each sound, we 'chop' our arms before clapping our hands together and saying the complete word. Let' Practise!!

Tricky Words

Words that have to be taught through repeated revision. They cannot be segmented/ blended.

Eg. the, my, he, she

High Frequency Words

These words are seen often. We learn to recognise by sight to speed up reading and writing.

Eg. is, at, it, in, the

Word types

VC - vowel, consonant eg. in, at, is

CVC - consonant, vowel, consonant eg. cat, dog, tap

CVCC - consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant
eg. milk, pump, pond

CCVC - consonant, consonant, vowel, consonant

Eg. twin, step, crib



We follow the Letters and Sounds DfE programme for teaching systematic synthetic phonics. Within this programme, children are taught through 'phases'.

Phase	Phonic Knowledge and Skills
Phase One (Nursery/Reception)	Activities are divided into seven aspects, including environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and finally oral blending and segmenting.
Phase Two (Reception) up to 6 weeks	Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each. Blending sounds together to make words. Segmenting words into their separate sounds. Beginning to read simple captions.
Phase Three (Reception) up to 12 weeks	The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Graphemes such as ch, oo, th representing the remaining phonemes not covered by single letters. Reading captions, sentences and questions. On completion of this phase, children will have learnt the "simple code", i.e. one grapheme for each phoneme in the English language.
Phase Four (Reception) 4 to 6 weeks	No new grapheme-phoneme correspondences are taught in this phase. Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump.
Phase Five (Throughout Year 1)	Now we move on to the "complex code". Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know.
Phase Six (Throughout Year 2 and beyond)	Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters etc.



We have started with phase 2 and are currently on set 3. The Letters and Sounds programme moves through the sets at pace and the children respond well to and enjoy this. At Thomas Bullock, we ensure the pace is pitched well to the individual learners.

Phase 2 Phonics sets:

1: s, a, t, p

2: i, n, m, d

3: g, o, c, k

4: ck, e, u, r

5: h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

More information can be found at

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-2.html>

How can you support your child in their learning?

- Read, read, read! Reading is key and underpins most, if not all, other learning that takes place in school. We ask children to read at home 5 times a week and parents are to record this in their reading record which is checked daily.
- It's also important to foster a love of reading; share your childhood books with them, read bedtime stories, read in unusual places, read and cook a recipe!

How can you support your child in their learning?

- Practise using your phonics flashcards. Set up sound hunts around your home and garden. Make words with the sounds. Copy the sounds in a shallow tray of flour or rice. Play 'I spy' The possibilities are endless.
- When talking, orally segment some of your words. Eg. "please go and get your c-oo-t. Now let's put on your sh-oe-s".
- Provide opportunities for your child to practise and embed their phonics ie. writing shopping lists, exposure to print, games, songs, rhymes, praise...

Umlink links:

- <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/> parents guide to phonics with links to videos and support ideas.
- <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk> fun and interactive games
- <http://www.phonicsbloom.co.uk> fun and interactive games
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw DfE Letters and sounds youtube channel. Daily video lessons and guides.

Question time

