

Phonics

Information for Parents/Carers

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skillfully.

They are taught how to:

- ✧ Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- ✧ Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make (e.g. /sh/)
- ✧ Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word

Why Phonics?

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way – starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex – it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read. It is particularly helpful for children aged 5 to 7.

Almost all children who receive good teaching of phonics will learn the skills they need to tackle new words. They can then go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently, and to read with enjoyment.

(The information above is from the Department of Education's 'Learning to read through phonics'.)



Phonics at Chesterfield School

At Chesterfield school we use the Read Write Inc. It is a widely used and highly successful phonics programme. It provides a lively and systematic approach to teaching synthetic phonics. Children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and how to sound-blend words for reading (decoding).

When children enter Reception class they take part in high-quality phonics sessions every day. These are fun sessions involving speaking, listening and reading, where the emphasis is on children's active participation. They learn to use their phonic knowledge for reading and writing in their independent play.































As children enter Key Stage 1 (Year 1) they continue to take part in daily sessions on phonics. They continue learning new sounds (Set 2 and Set 3). They also learn that most sounds can be spelled in more than one way. For example, the **f** sound can be written as **f** or **ff** or **ph**.

This develops their knowledge of spelling choices. They will continue with this phonics and spelling work into Year 2 and beyond.

Structure of phonics teaching at Chesterfield

Children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and how to sound-blend words for reading (decoding).

Speed Sounds Set 1

m 	a 	s 	d 	t 
i 	n 	p 	g 	o 
c 	k 	u 	b 	f 
e 	l 	h 	sh 	r 
j 	v 	y 	w 	th 
z 	ch 	qu 	x 	ng 

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Blending: Children are taught to be able to blend. This is when children say the sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sounds together until they can hear what the word is. This skill is vital in learning to read.

Segmenting: Children are also taught to segment. This is the opposite of blending. Children are able to say a word and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up. This skill is vital in being able to spell words.

These sounds are introduced in Nursery and taught daily in Reception. The children will begin to learn to blend and segment to help them with reading and spelling. This will begin with simple words e.g. at, on, am, mat, sit, pot (Word Time lessons).












Phonics

Structure of phonics teaching at Chesterfield

Set 2 sounds

Speed Sounds Set 2

ay  may I play?	ee  what can you see?	igh  fly high	ow  blow the snow	oo  poo at the zoo
oo  look at a book	ar  start the car	or  shut the door	air  that's not fair	ir  whirl and twirl
			ou  shout it out	oy  toy for a boy

These sounds are introduced at the end of Reception and taught daily in Year 1. The children will begin to blend and segment words with set 2 sounds. Reading teachers will introduce green words with each set 2 sound in class and send them home for children to continue practising.



Phonics

Structure of phonics teaching at Chesterfield

Set 3 sounds

home

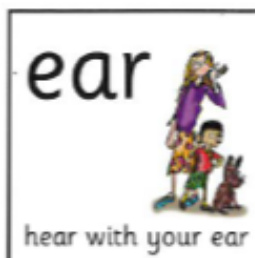
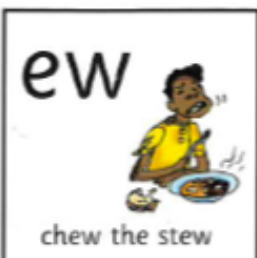
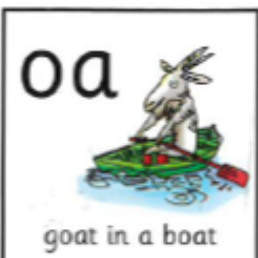
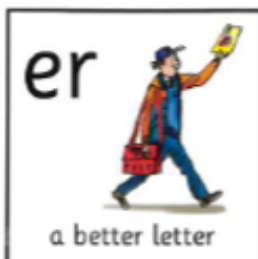
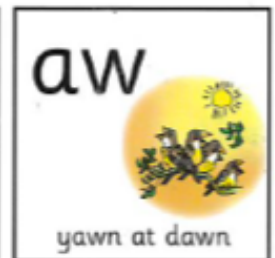
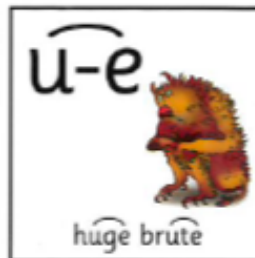
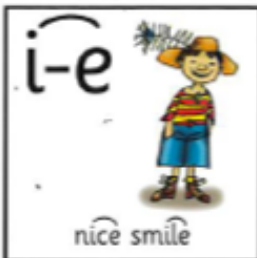
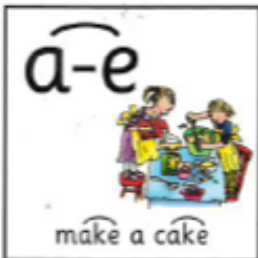
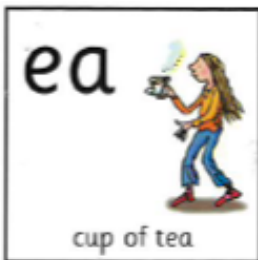
hope

rose



These sounds are taught in Year 1 and Year 2.

The children will blend and segment words with set 3 sounds. Reading teachers will introduce green words with each set 3 sound in class and send them home for children to continue practising.



Phonics

Reading – Story Books (RWI)

In addition to phonics work, children at Chesterfield School read phonics books in class every day. Once a story book is introduced, each child takes a copy of the book home for further practice. Children will move through the phonics reading levels from Reception up to Year 2.

Green words

Read in Fred Talk (pure sounds).

slow far lunch

boy Floyd Roy Toy Troy point join

Read in syllables.

tor`toise → tortoise sand`pit → sandpit Sun`day → Sunday

Read the root word first and then with the ending.

point → pointed look → looked



Each story book contains Speed Sounds chart and Green Words linked to the story. It is important to revise these sounds and words before reading the story.

Speed sounds

Consonants Say the pure sounds (do not add 'uh').

f ff	l ll	m mm	n nn kn	r rr	s ss se	v ve	z zz s	sh	th	ng nk		
b bb	c ck	d dd	g gg	h	j	p pp	qu	t tt	w wh	x	y	ch tch

Vowels Say the sounds in and out of order.

emphasise both 'oi' and 'oy'

at	hen	in	on	up	day	see	high	blow
	head					happy		
zoo	look	car	for	fair	whirl	shout	boy	
			door				spoil	
			snore					

Each box contains one sound but sometimes more than one grapheme. Focus graphemes are circled.



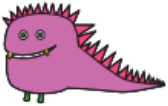

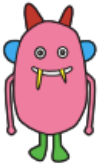

Nonsense words (Alien words)

Each child in Year 1 is required to complete a Phonics Screening Check in June. It has been designed to ensure that children are making sufficient progress with their phonics skills to read words and that they are on track to become fluent readers.

The test consists of words containing Set 1, Set 2 and Set 3 sounds. Children will be asked to read a selection of real words and 'alien' ('nonsense') words.

This is an example:

Section 2
crust
trails
strip
scraps

Section 2
vaw 
meast 
waib 
zome 

Phonics

How can I help my child at home?



Read phonics books with your child at home every day. Encourage them to use their sounds (Fred Talk) to read unfamiliar words.



Revise the sounds taught at school. You can find copies of sound mats on our school website.



Revise green words with the focus sound. The reading teacher will send copies of green words home.



Ensure that you pronounce 'pure' sounds when you practice the sounds with your child at home. We have videos and links on our school website.

Useful websites:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/read-write-inc-phonics--1/phonics-pure-sounds-video>

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

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

<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/literacy.html>

<http://www.bigbrownbear.co.uk/letters/>