

Dear Parents/Carers,

Whilst your child is in Reception they will do daily Phonics sessions.

During their time in Nursery they will have completed Phase 1, which involves them acquiring the skills to listen. They are taught about; Environmental sounds, Instrumental sounds, Body percussion (e.g. clapping and stamping), Rhythm and rhyme, Alliteration, Voice sounds, Oral blending and segmenting (e.g. hearing that d-o-g makes 'dog').

When moving into Reception we begin Phase 2 which focuses on learning the sounds that letters make and then later on in the year we will move onto Phase 3 which moves onto trickier phonemes.

What is Phonics?

**Phonics** is a method of **teaching children to read by linking sounds** (phonemes) **and the symbols that represent them** (**graphemes**, or letter groups). Phonics is the learning-to-read method used in primary schools in the UK today.

What is a phoneme?

A **phoneme** is the **smallest unit of sound**. The phonemes used when speaking English are:

<b>s</b> sat	<b>t</b> tap	<b>p</b> pan	<b>n</b> nose	<b>m</b> mat	<b>a</b> ant	<b>e</b> egg	<b>i</b> ink	<b>o</b> otter
<b>g</b> goat	<b>d</b> dog	<b>ck</b> click	<b>r</b> run	<b>h</b> hat	<b>u</b> up	<b>ai</b> rain	<b>ee</b> knee	<b>igh</b> light
<b>b</b> bus	<b>f</b> farm	<b>l</b> lolly	<b>j</b> jam	<b>v</b> van	<b>oa</b> boat	<b>oo</b> cook	<b>oo</b> boot	<b>ar</b> star
<b>w</b> wish	<b>x</b> axe	<b>y</b> yell	<b>z</b> zap	<b>qu</b> quill	<b>or</b> fork	<b>ur</b> burn	<b>ow</b> now	<b>oi</b> boil
<b>ch</b> chin	<b>sh</b> ship	<b>th</b> think	<b>th</b> the	<b>ng</b> sing	<b>ear</b> near	<b>air</b> stair	<b>ure</b> sure	<b>er</b> writer

In Reception we start by working on decoding (**see a letter and then say the sound it represents out loud**), then we move onto blending (**blend the sounds and say the whole word**), decoding CVC words (**three-letter words arranged consonant, vowel, consonant**), decoding consonants clusters in CCVC and CVCC, vowel digraphs (**oo, ai, ee**) and consonant digraphs (**ch, sh**).

### Encoding, or learning to spell as well as read

Alongside this process of learning to decode (read) words, children will need to continue to practise forming letters which then needs to move onto encoding. Encoding is the process of writing down a spoken word, otherwise known as spelling. They should start to be able to produce their own short pieces of writing, spelling the simple words correctly.

It goes without saying that reading a range of age-appropriate texts as often as possible will really support children in their grasp of all the reading and spelling of all the phonemes.

### How can parents help?

It is important that you read regularly with your child as this helps them to learn the rules of reading, (reading from left to right, following each word by pointing to it).

Each week we will send home the sounds that your child has been learning in the week, this will progress onto 'tricky words' – words that are not easily decodable such as I, go, to...

Please practise these sounds and words at home. If you are unsure of how to correctly pronounce the sound there are a wide range of resources online that can help you.

YouTube – Mr Thorne does Phonics.

CBeebies – Alphablocks – they have games as well as videos!

Readwithfonics – a free website that you can sign up for and there are games and videos

Teach your Monster to read app on iPhone and Android – again a free service.

I know that I can rely on your continued support with your children's learning and I am looking forward to the fun year ahead!!

Miss Lucy