



Phonics at Bournmoor Primary School

A Helpful Guide

An Introduction to Phonics

Words are made up from small units of sound called *phonemes*. Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word. This helps children to learn to read words and to spell words.

Phonics at Bournmoor Primary School

At Bournmoor, we believe that phonics is a vital part of children's education. It plays an essential role in preparing pupils to become brilliant readers and writers.

In Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One, pupils receive a daily phonic session from the Twinkl programme. As pupils progress into Key Stage Two, phonics skills are embedded to allow word reading of more advanced texts. Our sessions focus on daily, interactive sessions that allow pupils' reading and spelling skills to develop.

- 1) Children learning **phonemes** and **graphemes** (spelling and pronunciation).
- 2) Teaching children how to **blend** sounds e.g. s...n...ail...l = snail.
- 3) Teaching pupils to **segment** words into their phonemes sheep = sh-ee-p. This means pupils can break up words into phonemes to read/spell unfamiliar words.
- 4) Learn to read and spell tricky words (there is a list available in this book).
- 5) Teaching pupils to pronounce phonemes in alternative ways e.g. mean, break, feather
- 6) Teaching children to spell phonemes in different ways e.g. ai, a, ay, eigh, ea

Phases

Phase 1	Children learn to listen for sounds and identify rhyme, rhythm and alliteration.
Phase 2	Pupils will learn a selection of phonemes and tricky words.
Phase 3	Children will be taught a selection of new phonemes that include digraphs and trigraphs.
Phase 4	This phase focuses on revision of previous sounds.
Phase 5	Phase 5 focuses on new phonemes, including split digraphs and alternative spellings and pronunciations of phonemes.
Phase 6	The final phase focuses on the tense of word e.g. past and present tense and how suffixes (e.g. ing, -ed) change the meaning of a word.

Phases are taught as a child progresses through the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One because this allows time for both acceleration and consolidation as per the needs of the child. This is consolidated in Key Stage Two if required.

Phonics Assessment

At the end of Year 1, there is a statutory assessment test for Phonics. This Year 1 phonics screening check takes place nationally in June each year. The check involves the children reading real and nonsense words.

Any children who don't pass the phonics test in Year 1 will be retested in Year 2. Reading nonsense words is a perfect way to check that your child can blend phonemes for reading, by reading a word they have never seen before, e.g. ch – au – g *chaug*.

What can you do to help?

After Christmas, Year 1 parents will receive a phonics revision book to take home. Please practise reading the real and nonsense words with your child. Encourage them to blend the sounds for reading (e.g. ch – i – p *chip*, sh – oa – g *shoag*). It is important that they segment and blend the sounds then say the whole word. This supplements the ongoing home readers that children bring home and provides a more focused approach to learning phonics at home.

Glossary

Grapheme: a letter or sequence of letters that represent a phoneme

Phoneme: a sound in a word

Digraph: 2 letters making one sound (e.g. ch, ai, ee)

Trigraph: 3 letters making one sound (e.g. air, igh)

Split digraph: where the two letters are not adjacent (e.g. e_e, a_e, i_e, o_e, u_e)

Segmenting: means breaking words down into their phonemes to spell (e.g. cat ... c – a – t)

Blending: is the reverse of segmenting. When you blend, you build words from their phonemes to read (e.g. ch – ai – n ... chain)