

PHONICS AND SPELLING

Our Phonics teaching is based on 'Letters and Sounds'; some aspects of 'Jolly Sounds' are incorporated. Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 participate in a phonics lesson on a daily basis. 'Letters and Sounds' is divided into 6 phases:

Phase	Phonic Knowledge and Skills
<i>Phase One</i> (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.
<i>Phase Two</i> (Reception)	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.
<i>Phase Three</i> (Reception)	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.
<i>Phase Four</i> (Reception)	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.
<i>Phase Five</i> (Reception and throughout Year 1)	Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know.
<i>Phase Six</i> (Throughout Year 2 and beyond)	Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters etc.

A phoneme is a sound

A grapheme is a written representation of the sound

Children are regularly assessed in their phonics knowledge and work at the phase that is appropriate for them. Towards the end of Year 1, children are formally assessed through the statutory 'Phonics Screening Test'.

In Key Stage 2, spelling strategies are taught 2-3 times a week, alternating with grammar teaching.

Phonics teaching continues into Key Stage 2. Throughout the school children are given additional support as necessary to develop their phonic understanding and spelling skills. Spellings taught include homophones, letter patterns, suffixes, prefixes, silent syllables, tricky words, topic words and children's own mis-spelt words.