The Teaching of Phonics

At Bramcote C of E Primary School, we follow the Letters and Sounds Programme to teach synthetic phonics. Letters and Sounds is a phonics resource published by the Department for Education and Skills in 2007. It aims to prepare children for learning to read and write by developing their phonic knowledge and skills.

It sets out a detailed and systematic programme of planned phases for teaching phonic skills to children. This starts at the age of four, with the aim of each child becoming a fluent reader by age seven. All children from Reception to Year Two access a twenty minute of discrete phonic teaching every day. They are organised into smaller ability groups using both teachers and our highly skilled teaching assistants, this enables the children to be taught in smaller groups with more focussed teaching of phonic skills which are appropriate for them.

Below is a breakdown of each phase and when it is taught within our school.

Phase 1- (Usually accessed prior to entry into school- Nursery age)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 2 (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.

Phase 3 (Reception)-The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Digraphs such as ch, oo, th representing the remaining phonemes not covered by single letters. Reading captions, sentences and questions.

Phase 4 (Reception/Year 1)- Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump.

Phase 5 (Year 1) Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know – e.g ay/ai/a-e, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know.

Phase 6 (Year 2)-Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters.