

## The Teaching of Phonics

### What is phonics?



Phonics is one method of teaching children how to read and write. Phonics is all about sounds. There are 44 sounds in the English language, which we put together to form words. Some are represented by one letter, like 't', and some by two or more, like 'ck' in duck and 'air' in chair. Children are taught the sounds first, then how to match them to letters, and finally how to use the letter sounds for reading and spelling. Synthetic phonics refers to 'synthesising', or blending, the sounds to read words. It is based on the idea that children should sound out unknown words and not rely on their context.

The Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme is taught in planned phases each builds on the phonics knowledge acquired between each phase enabling the children to develop good phonic skills. 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. Children are taught as a class so are exposed to phonic teaching appropriate for their age. When children are identified as not progressing as well as the majority of the class, additional interventions can be applied to support their learning in an attempt to keep them on track.

Phonics Phase	Outline of teaching
<b>Phase 1</b>	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.
<b>Phase 2</b>	(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.
<b>Phase 3</b>	(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.
<b>Phase 4</b>	(Reception/Year 1)- Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump.
<b>Phase 5</b>	(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.
<b>Phase 6</b>	(Year 2)-Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters.

At Bramcote C of E Primary School we have chosen to use the Bug Club Phonics programme to help your child learn to read, this is a DFE validated systematic synthetic phonics programme which follows an approach of synthesising phonemes (blending sounds) associated with graphemes (letters) a child sees. The programme is the product of extensive research on the best way to teach children how to read.

The reading books your child brings home are designed to support them in practising and consolidating the learning they have done at school. They also enable children to experience the pleasure and pride of reading their own books.

All the books in Bug Club Phonics have been finely-levelled to ensure that all children can read books at exactly the right level for them. What's more, there are online versions for every printed title and a personalised website for each child.

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