



Teaching Phonics at St. John's

Below are some details about how we teach phonics (one aspect of reading) at St John's. You will also find resources and website links.

When teaching phonics we use a government produced scheme of work called Letters and Sounds. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers by age seven.

Letters and Sounds is broken down into 6 phases which are worked through from nursery to the end of year 2.

Phase 1 (starting at pre-school and continuing throughout the other phases)

- Showing an awareness of rhyme and alliteration.
- Distinguishing between sounds in the environment.
- Exploring and experimenting with sounds and words.
- Discriminating speech sounds in words.
- Beginning to orally blend and segment phonemes.

Phase 2

Blending for reading and segmenting for spelling simple cvc words.

Letter sets

Set 1 - s, a, t, p,

Set 2 - l, n, m, d,

Set 3 - g, o, c, k,

Set 4 - ck, e, u, r,

Set 5 - h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss,

Phase 3

Knowing one grapheme for each of the 43 phonemes.

Letter sets:

Set 6 - j, v, w, x

Set 7 - y, z, zz, qu

Graphemes:

ear, air, ure, er, ar, or, ur, ow, oi,

ai, ee, igh, oa, oo

Consonant digraphs:

ch, sh, th, ng.

Phase 4

This is a consolidation unit. There are no new graphemes to learn but the children learn how read longer words such as stamp, plug, flag, twig. They also learn more tricky words.

Phase 5

Learning alternative Graphemic representations and phonemic representations for graphemes and phonemes already learned :

ay, ou, ie, ea, oy, ir, ue, aw, wh, ph, ew, oe, au, a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e.

Alternative pronunciations for:

i, o, c, g, u, ow, ie, ea, er, a, y, ch, ou

Phase 6

At this stage children should be able to spell words phonemically although not always correctly. The main aim of this phase is to become more fluent readers and more accurate spellers.

Useful Website links - for your information

www.mrthorne.com/

www.letters-and-sounds.com/

www.phonicsplay.co.uk