

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central area is white, providing a clean space for the text.

# Phonics workshop for parents and carers

# What is phonics?

- ▶ Phonics is the study of sounds. Children are taught to read and write using ‘phonics’, which is by directly linking ‘phonemes’ (sounds in words) and graphemes (the symbols used to represent them).
- ▶ ‘Letters and Sounds’ is a government produced synthetic phonic teaching programme. There are 44 phonemes in the English language, with 26 letters that are used individually and combined to represent them. Throughout six phases children will be taught the 44 phonemes.

# What is a phoneme?

- ▶ It is the smallest unit of sound and a piece of terminology that children like to use and should be taught. At first it will equate with a letter sound but later on will include digraphs, trigraphs and quadgraphs. For example, the word 'dog' consists of three phonemes /d/ /o/ /g/. The word charm also consists of three phonemes /ch/ /ar/ /m/.

## What is a digraph?

- ▶ This is when two letters come together to make a phoneme (two letters, one sound) 'oa' makes the sound in boat.

## What is a trigraph?

- ▶ This is when three letters come together to make a phoneme (three letters, one sound) ‘**igh**’ makes the sound **light**.

## What is a quadgraph?

- ▶ This is when four letters come together to make a phoneme (four letters, one sound) ‘**eigh**’ makes the sound in **eight**.

# What is a grapheme?

- ▶ A grapheme is a letter or group of letters that represent a sound (phoneme) in a word.
- ▶ We use sound buttons (beans and sausages!) to help children recognise graphemes in early reading.

# What is segmenting?

- ▶ Segmenting is breaking up words into sounds. For example, the word 'run' can be split into three sounds /r/ /u/ /n/.

# What is blending?

- ▶ Blending is the process that is involved in bringing the sounds together to make a word or a syllable and is how /c/ /a/ /t / becomes cat.

# What is a syllable?

- ▶ A syllable is a single, unbroken sound within a spoken word. They typically contain a vowel and perhaps one or more accompanying consonants. Syllables are sometimes referred to as the ‘beats’ of a word, and breaking up a word into syllables can help with phonetic spelling.

# The sounds!

- ▶ It is important to keep phase two sounds short.  
For example:
- ▶ s not es
- ▶ m not muh
- ▶ n not nuh
  
- ▶ We use ‘Jolly Phonics’ to support the teaching and learning of phase 2 and 3 phonemes. Each sound is set to a popular tune and accompanied by an action.

# What are tricky words?

- ▶ Alongside learning phonics children are introduced to tricky words. These are the words that are irregular words. That means that phonics cannot be applied to the reading and spelling of these words.
- ▶ There are 41 TWs across the 6 phases

## Phase 2 to 5 Tricky Words

### Phase 2

I  
no  
the  
to  
go  
into

### Phase 3

he  
she  
we  
me  
be  
you  
are  
her  
was  
all  
they  
my

### Phase 4

said  
have  
like  
so  
do  
some  
come  
little  
one  
were  
there  
what  
when  
out

### Phase 5

oh  
Mrs  
people  
their  
called  
Mr  
looked  
asked  
could



# Phases 5 and 6 and Year 1 Phonics screening check.

- ▶ The phonics screening check is a short assessment to test whether children have learned to decode words using phonics to the required level.
- ▶ Children are expected to sound out and blend graphemes to read simple words.
- ▶ They are also required to read phonically decodeable one-syllable and two syllable words.

# Phonics screening check example:

Practice sheet: Real words

in

at

beg

sum

Practice sheet: Pseudo words

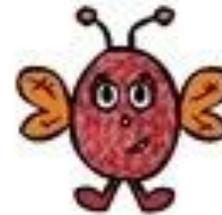
ot



vap



osk



ect



## Free resources:

- ▶ [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk) This website is a mixture of free and subscription activity for children from Year R to Year 2.