



Parents Introduction to Phonics
St Margaret's C of E Primary
October 2017



What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught to:

- Recognise the sound that each individual letter names;
- Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make – such as 'sh' or 'oo';
- Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.





What is RML?



- A synthetic phonics scheme.
- A recommended way of teaching children to read.
- One of a number of schemes available.
- Reading words (decoding)
- Spelling words (encoding)
- Reading comprehension
- Writing composition
- Letter formation

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/home/reading-site/expert-help/ruth-miskins-video-page?region=uk>



What do children learn?

- Make links between sounds and letters.
- Reading.
- Spelling.
- Handwriting.
- Writing.
- Reading comprehension.





How do children progress?

- Say, read, hear and write individual sounds.
- Read, spell and write individual words.
- Read, understand and write short phrases.
- Read and understand whole books and write sentences.
- Say, read, hear and write more complex words with sounds in.





What are the sounds?

- 44 sounds in total in the English language and only 26 letters to represent them.
- Each sound has more than one way of being written
ay ai a-e
- Set 1 sounds – simplest, most common sounds. One way of writing each sound. One way of reading each letter or group of letters.
- Set 2 sounds – more complex sounds. One way of writing each sound. One way of reading each letter or group of letters.
- Set 3 sounds – different ways of writing each of the sounds already taught.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc>





Terminology

- Fred talk – for reading (blending)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEzfpod5w_Q
- Fred fingers – for spelling (segmenting)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GjC6q7kX68>
- Green words – can be sounded out
- Red words – cannot be sounded out
- Ditties
- My-turn-your-turn
- Talk Partners





Nonsense words

- At the end of Year 1 children take a phonics screening test.
- As part of this they have to read nonsense words.
- Nonsense words are made up of known sounds, so can be read as green words
- In the test they have an alien next to them
- These must be read with each sound.





KS1 Phonics test Information and resources

There are lots of previous screening check papers that can be obtained online to practice with your child. The practice papers include a mixture of real words and non-words (nonsense words).

‘Non-words’ are important to include in the check as it allows children to show and use their skill of decoding.

They are not words they have seen or read before so are unable to use their memory to say the word. This is a fair way to assess a child’s ability to decode.

Practice papers can be found online at:

<http://www.sats-papers.co.uk/phonics-screening-check.php>

On this website, there are examples of acceptable answers as well.





What can parents do?

- Make sure you are pronouncing sounds correctly when practising at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc>

- Practise sounds daily, only writing lower case letters.
- Support children with RWI homework – read the scheme book with your child and practise the sound sheets (fs2)
- Read your home reading book together
- Use phonic sounds when writing
- Encourage children to use 'fred-fingers' to spell words independently
- Encourage children to use 'fred-talk' to read words independently
- Ask for help if you need it!





Support resources & Websites

-Use the RWI Parent support pages @
<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

- Free online games

-<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm>

<https://gb.education.com/games/phonological-awareness/>