

# Teaching and Learning Phonics at Westfield Primary School



# What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skillfully.

They are taught how to:

- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- 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 are phonemes?

- The smallest unit of sound is called a phoneme and your child will be taught about these as part of their phonics learning journey.
- The English language has 44 phonemes.
- Children are taught to write each letter, forming it accurately, as well as how to pronounce them correctly.
- Children are taught to produce the sounds as shortly as possible, e.g no 'uh' on the end of 'd' and 'g'.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW\\_v-1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s)

# What does blending and segmenting mean?

## Blending

Children need to be able to hear the separate sounds in a word and then blend them together to say the whole word.

/b/ /e/ /d/ = bed

## Segmenting

Children need to be able to hear a whole word and say every sound that they hear.

tin = /t/ /i/ /n/

# Terminology taught in class

- **Grapheme:** The spelling of the sound e.g. 'Th'
- **Diagraph:** Two letters that make one sound when read.
- **Trigraphs:** Three letters that make one sound.
- **CVC:** Stands for consonant, vowel, consonant.
- **Segmenting:** Breaking up a word into its sounds.
- **Blending:** Putting the sounds together to read a word.
- **Tricky words:** Words that cannot easily be decoded.

# How do we teach phonics at Westfield?

Children are taught phonics daily with each session lasting 20 minutes. A phonics lesson is taught in four parts.

## Revisit/review

Previous learning from the day before.

## Teach

New phoneme-grapheme correspondences; skills of blending and segmenting; tricky words.

## Practise

New phoneme - grapheme correspondences; skills of blending and segmenting.

## Apply

New knowledge and skills while reading/writing.

# How do we teach phonics at Westfield?

- Phonics is taught in phases (Phase 1 - Phase 6).
- Children begin their phonics journey in EYFS using Phase 2 as a starting point.
- Children are split into focussed groups in order to deliver targeted teaching and learning.
- By the end of Year One, children are expected to have completed the first five phases.
- Children complete the 'Phonics Screening Check' at the end of Year One.

# How can I help at home?

- Use the phonics packs provided to practise phonemes.
- Display phonemes and tricky words around the house.
- Challenge the children to find objects that begin with a certain sound.
- Access apps/websites such as 'Phonics Play' for online games.
- Play 'I Spy' with phonemes not letter names.
- Practise letter formation.
- Play games with word cards.
- Make sentences with word cards.
- Read as often as possible with your child.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your time!

Are there any questions?

