

## What you can do to help at home?

### Practising sounds

A sounds pack is sent home in Acorn class which includes sound cards with the Jolly Phonic actions on and small letter cards.

- Play games to help your child learn the sounds
- Build real and nonsense words with your child using the small letter cards

### Blending and Segmenting

You can play 'robot talk' or 'sound talk' games all the time at home. While you are eating you dinner, ask the child to point or pass you things. But instead of saying the word, segment it so that they have to blend it together

- *Pass me the p – ea – s*  
*Touch your ch – i – n*

Encourage your child to do it back to you so that they have to segment the word for you.

### Reading

- Blending- Encourage your child to sound out each phonetic word and have a go at blending it together. They may need to sound it out several times before they can hear the word.
- Try reading little and often. 2 or 3 pages of really focussed reading is much more useful than slogging through the whole book. You will end up reading half of it yourself and the child will get very little out of it. Don't make it a battle!
- Tricky words- Point out that it is a 'tricky word' and talk about the letters and what it actually says.

### Year 1 Phonics Test

Every Year 1 child in the country will be taking the phonics screening check in the same week in June. It ensures that all children are able to read by the end of year two. This is a 'midpoint check'.

### What happens?

- The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons.
- Children will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together. eg d-o-g – dog
- There is a mix of real and pseudo words.
- This is **not** a reading test!

in	ot 
at	vap 
beg	osk 
sum	ect 

### What happens next?

- Results are reported to parents and to County.
- Support will be put in place for your child if they do not reach the 'required level'.
- A second test will take place in Year 2

Please visit the school website for a video of enunciation of the sounds.

[www.lawshallschool.co.uk](http://www.lawshallschool.co.uk)

Other recommended Websites:

- [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)
- [www.jollylearning.co.uk](http://www.jollylearning.co.uk)

**If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's class teacher.**

## All Saints CEVC Primary School



# Phonics Information Guide



## What is phonics?

Phonics is words that are made up from small units of sound called phonemes. Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word. This helps children to learn to read words and to spell words.

## What do we do at All Saints?

- Phonics is taught daily in 15-20 minutes sessions in every class. It is taught at a fast pace with a variety of fun activities and game to keep the children focussed.
- We teach the letter sounds using the Jolly Phonics program. This is a fun approach, linking the sounds with actions and songs which help the children recognise and remember the sounds.
- We also follow the Primary National Strategy teaching programme 'Letters and Sounds' which focuses on teaching the sounds in phases. (Phase 1-4 in Reception, Phase 5 in Year 1, Phase 6 in Year 2).

## Teaching the sounds

**Phoneme**- The smallest unit of sound. There are approximately 44 phonemes in English (it depends on different accents). Phonemes can be put together to make words.

**Grapheme**- A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. p, 2 letters e.g. sh, 3 letters e.g. tch or 4 letters e.g. ough.

In our daily phonic sessions, we introduce a phoneme through Jolly Phonics pictures, actions, stories and songs and then move onto matching the phoneme to the grapheme to blend and segment into words.

Alongside the single sound phonemes, we introduce

1. **digraph**- two letters that make 1 sound (qu,ch,sh)
2. **trigraphs**- 3 letters that make 1 sound (igh, ear, air)
3. **split digraphs** which are two letters that are not next to each other (i-e in kite, a-e in name)

### Phonics in Year 2

- Consolidating and applying the different in reading and writing that the children have learnt according to the different patterns e.g. ie, i-e, igh, y
- Looking at past and present tenses by adding 'ing' and 'ed' to words
- Exploring prefixes (un/dis) and suffixes (ly, ful, ness) and beginning to think about plurals

## Blending & Segmenting

Children are taught to blend to read and segment to spell and both these skills are the focus of every phonics session.

**Blending** is when children see a word, say the sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sounds together until they can hear what the word is. This skill is vital in learning to read.

- **Blend to read**  
c-a-t → cat  
Written to spoken

**Segmenting** is the opposite to this. Children are able to say a word, without seeing written down, and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up. This skill is vital in being able to spell words.

- **Segment to spell**  
cat → c-a-t  
Spoken to written

### Tricky Words

These are words that cannot be easily sounded out, and therefore we teach the children to be able to read them from sight.

Examples of tricky words are:

- the
- I
- go, no, to
- put, was

### Letter names

We teach the letter names alongside the letter sounds. It is important for the children to know both the names and sounds to help them with spelling in the future.