



Phonics and Reading at Broomhill

What is Phonics and why is it important?

Phonics is a way of teaching reading which focuses on learning **phonemes** (sounds) associated with particular **graphemes** (letters). It provides children with the ability to decode words. The skill of decoding is an important element in early reading.

Language we use at school:

Phoneme: The smallest units of sound that are found within a word.

Grapheme: A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. 'p', 'n' or more than 1.

Digraph: Two letters that make one sound when read, e.g. 'ai' as in *rain*, 'ee' as in *feet*.

Trigraph: Three letters that make one sound, e.g. 'igh' as in *night*, 'ear' as in *near*.

CVC: Stands for consonant, vowel, consonant, words such as *mat*, *pin*, *cat*, *dog*.

Segmenting: Breaking up a word into its sounds to spell.

Blending: Putting the sounds together to read a word.

Tricky words: Words that cannot easily be decoded (also known as **Common Exception Words**)

Blending to read:

Children need to be able to hear the separate sounds in a word and then blend them together to say the whole word. You say c // a // t . Your child can blend the sounds to say 'cat'.

Segmenting to spell:

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

You say 'cat'. Your child can segment the word to say or write c // a // t

In Nursery children will work within Phase 1, where the focus will be on listening to different sounds and learning songs, games and rhymes to help get them ready for their Phonics lessons in Reception.

In Reception children start short Phonics lessons daily where new phonemes and graphemes are introduced, supporting children to become confident readers, able to decode many words that contain the phonemes they have been taught.

Phase 2- Unit 1: s, a, t, p Unit 2: i, n, m, d Unit 3: g, o, c, k Unit 4: ck, (as in duck) e, u, r Unit 5: h, b, l, f, ff, (as in puff) ll, (as in hill) ss, (as in hiss)

Phase 3- Unit 6: v, w, x Unit 7: y, z, zz, qu Unit 8: ch, sh, th, ng Unit 9: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo Unit 10: ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er

Phase 4- Adjacent consonants

In Year 1 children will recap the phonemes they learned in Reception and move onto **Phase 5** where they will learn some alternative graphemes for these, including: ay, ou, ie, ea, oy, ir, ue, aw, wh, ph, ew, oe, au, ey, a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e.

In Year 2 children will continue to apply their phonics skills to help them become fluent readers and will move on to Phase 6 where they will learn about spelling rules and patterns to help them read and write a wider range of words.



How we teach phonics:

We use a systematic synthetic phonics programme called **Bug Club Phonics** which has been validated for use by the DfE. This is a fully interactive programme that children can access both in school and at home and includes e-books and games to help support children to become confident at decoding words. Your child will have their own account with a username and password which they can log in to and access the items the class teacher has allocated to them:

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login> . Please speak to your child's teacher if you need any

support with this, or have a look at the YouTube video links on our website.

The importance of Reading Books:

Even at an early stage in their education it is very important that your child has regular opportunities to apply their phonics skills in reading and writing activities. The reading books your child receives from school are carefully picked to consolidate learning and give them opportunities to use the skills they have learnt in phonics. Ideally your child should be reading their school book at least 3 times per week. We know that this can be tricky with busy lifestyles but even 10 minutes can really help your child make progress in reading and writing. Reading involves decoding the words using phonic skills and comprehension and understanding of what they have read. The more often a child re-reads a book, the more fluent they will become in being able to recognise words on sight.

When you have read with your child please date and sign their reading record book and add any comments if necessary. The online Bug Club reading platform also supports children with reading in a fun, interactive way in school and at home. These books are matched to your child's phonics level and are updated regularly by teachers to ensure progression is made.

Other useful links to support phonics and reading at home:

www.phonicsplay.co.uk - This is a great website that we often use in school to consolidate phonics learning. It has a range of games and activities linked to each phonic phase and allows children to practise blending and segmenting as well as learn tricky words.

www.discoveryeducation.co.uk- (Ask your child's teacher for log in details).

There are lots of phonics games here as well as printable resources you can use.