

The background of the slide is a large yellow diamond shape.A red crayon with a black outline is positioned at the top left, pointing towards the center. A red squiggle line extends from its tip towards the text.

Phonics and reading information for parents

October 2019

A purple squiggle line starts from the left, dips down, and then rises towards the right. At the end of this line is a blue crayon with a yellow body and a black outline, pointing towards the right.

What is phonics?



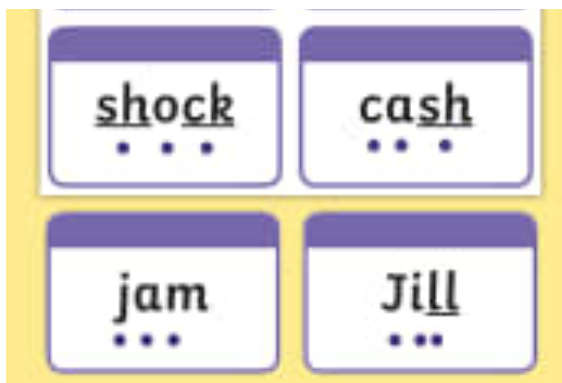
- A way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully.
- Systematic synthetic phonics – teaches 44 **phonemes** (sounds) that letters and combinations of letters make and the **graphemes** (the way to write the sound) that represent them (**digraphs** are 2 letters, one sound e.g. ai; **trigraphs** are 3 letters, one sound e.g. igh).
- Children learn **letter names** alongside the sounds that they make (e.g. the letter **s** makes the sound sssss; together the letters **s** and **h** make a digraph which makes the shhhh sound).



What is phonics?



- Phonemes can be spelled in a variety of different ways (e.g. the graphemes ai/ay/a/a_e all make the same sound).
- **Split digraphs** (a_e, e_e, i_e, o_e, u_e) not magic e!
- Children **blend** sounds to read words (c-a-t = cat; b-oa-t = boat; l-igh-t = light) and **segment** them to spell and write (dog = d-o-g; s-n-ai-l; f-air = fair).
- **Sound buttons** help children blend and segment by counting sounds in words.

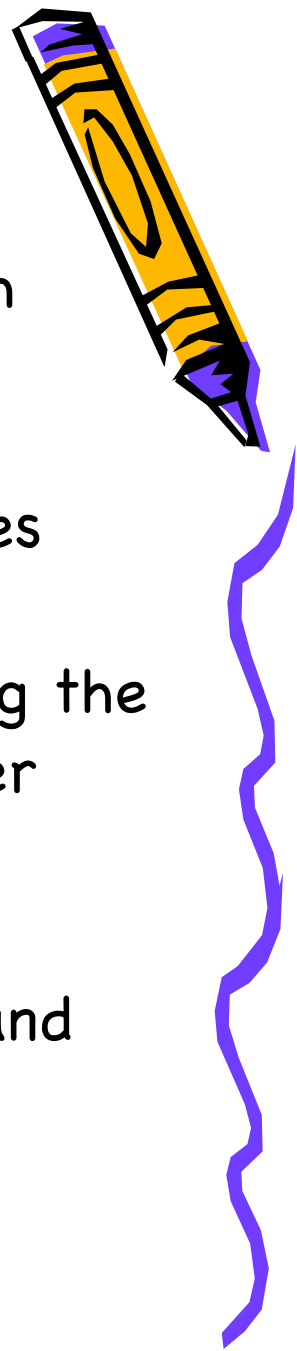


Phonics at Alverton

- Systematic & progressive daily sessions covering Phases 2-6 taught from R-Y2 (Phase 1 begins in pre-school class in Woodlands).
- Planning based on Government Letters and Sounds programme with Jolly Phonics actions to help aid memory.
- Children taught in whole-class groups (may be smaller groups in Reception class according to need).



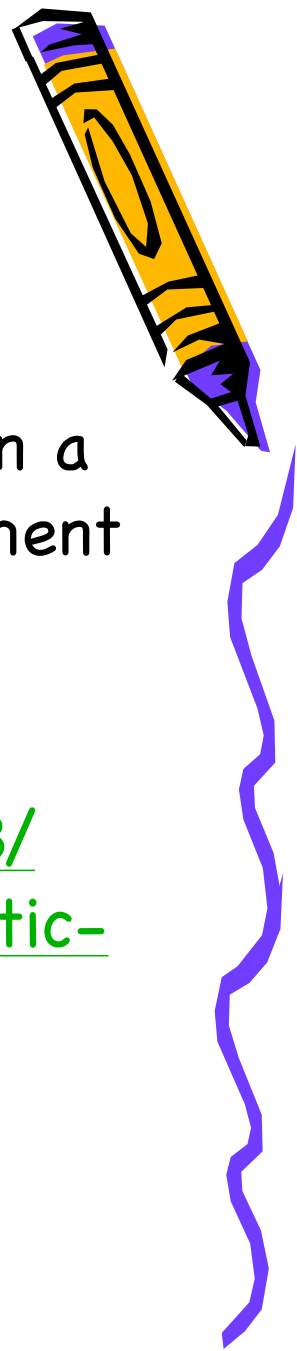
Phonics at Alverton



- Variety of interactive resources used during both taught sessions and independent practice (www.phonicsplay.com; www.ictgames.com; www.teachyourmonstertoread.com; Mr Thorne Does Phonics – on youtube).
- Regular, effective assessment allows for “plugging the gaps” – short term by class based staff and longer term by a highly trained specialist phonics intervention TA.
- High expectations for use of phonics in reading and writing across the curriculum.



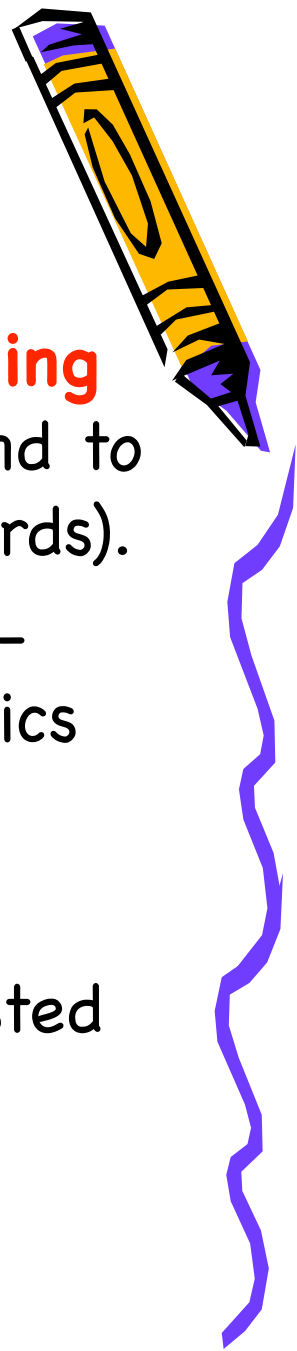
Precise (or pure) sounds



- The key to successful phonic learning!
- Each phoneme, or sound, should be spoken in a precise way, to help children blend and segment them.
- No **schwa** sound! (An unstressed uh sound).
- <http://phonicbooks.wordpress.com/2011/03/13/how-to-say-the-sounds-of-letters-in-synthetic-phonics/>



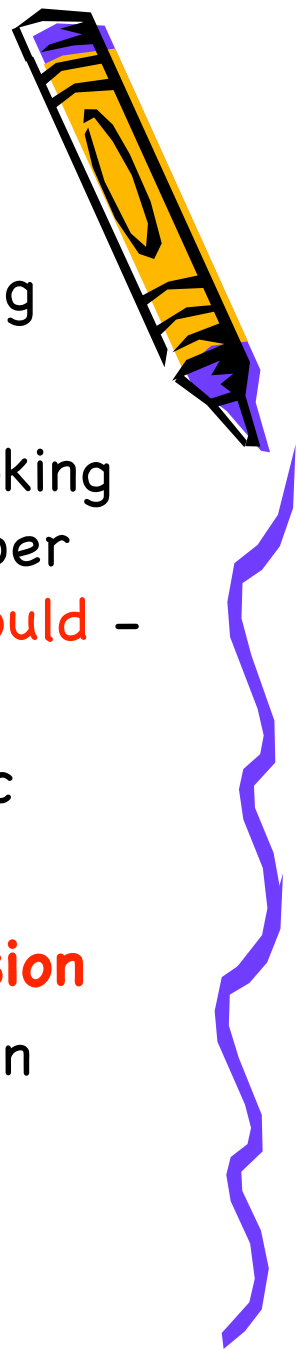
Phonics Screening Check



- Compulsory check of Year 1 children's **decoding** skills (knowing the phonemes that correspond to graphemes and blending them into whole words).
- Uses nonsense words as well as real words – lots of opportunities to practise during phonics sessions.
- Takes place in final half term.
- Children who do not pass in Year 1 are retested in Year 2.



Reading and Phonics



- Phonics is used as the primary method for teaching reading.
- **Common exception words** taught discretely by looking at the irregular parts and finding ways to remember them (e.g. **was** - **w**orms **a**re **s**limy; **c**ould/**w**ould/**s**hould - **o**h **u** lucky **d**uck).
- Reading books matched to children's current phonic stage through regular assessment.
- When moving through the book bands **comprehension** is assessed as well as **decoding** (translating written words into speech).



What can I do at home?

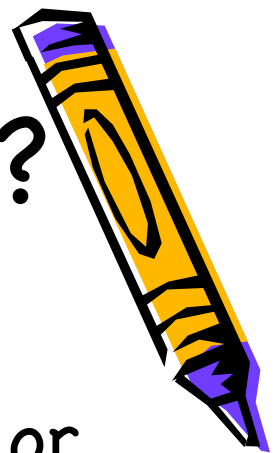
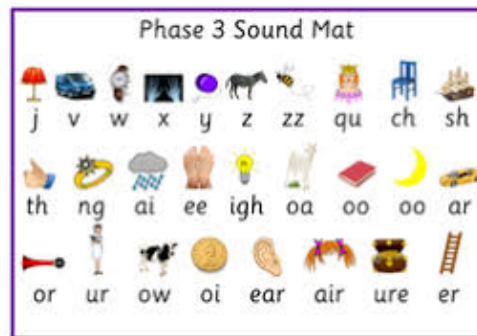


- Read with your child every day! **Kids who read, succeed!** Build it into your routine and “make reading your thing”!
- When reading stories, or giving instructions, segment words for your child to blend.
- Spot digraphs, trigraphs and split digraphs in books that you are reading.



What can I do at home?

- Practise **Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence (GPC)** with flashcards or sound mats.
- Use sound buttons when blending for reading and segmenting for writing.
- Please speak to your child's class teacher if you would like further advice or support!



Thanks for coming!


Any Questions

