

Reading

At Alverton School, children practise their phonic reading skills through individual and guided reading sessions. There are daily opportunities to read self-chosen books and to hear adults read aloud. As well as teaching children the mechanics of how to read we also strive to inspire a life-long love of reading by encouraging children to read for pleasure widely and often. We aim to stimulate children's thinking about what, where and why they like to read through a range of timetabled and extra-curricular activities. We take every opportunity to reinforce the idea that reading is an important and enjoyable part of both academic, and wider, life.



Useful websites:

www.oxfordowl.co.uk (information to support reading at home)

www.mrthorne.com (information on correct phoneme pronunciation)

www.jollylearning.co.uk (free activity sheets to support with phonics at home)



Alverton Primary School



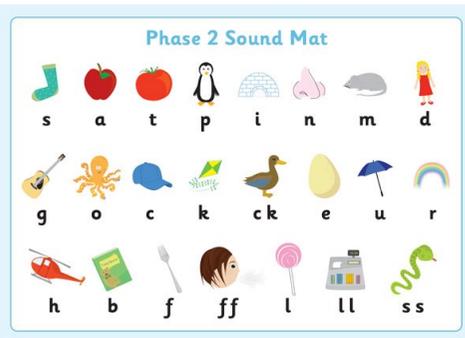
Phonics & Reading

Parent Guide

Number 11

About phonics

At Alverton School we teach children to read and write using the synthetic phonics approach where children are taught the 44 sounds (**phonemes**) that letters or combinations of letters (**graphemes**) make. Children then progress to reading by saying the correct sounds that letters make in words and **blending** them together in the correct order (e.g. c-a-t = cat). They learn **segmenting** for writing by breaking words down into individual sounds and choosing letters to represent them (e.g. sh-o-p = shop). In the earliest stages of their phonic learning children will be encouraged to have a go at spelling words independently, based on the sound and letter combinations that they have been taught. As time progresses children will learn a variety of spelling choices for each sound and where they should be used. They also learn to write high frequency **tricky words** or those words which cannot be successfully segmented for spelling (e.g. the, was, she).



The 44 phonemes in the English language (some represented by more than one grapheme (e.g. c, k, ck and s, ss.)

Phonics teaching

At Alverton School phonics is taught during daily sessions which begin in our Nursery and continue throughout the EYFS and Key Stage 1. Children may be put into groups with others at a similar stage of learning, in order to work at an appropriate pace, with some pupils also receiving extra teaching at other times throughout the day.

Our phonics teaching is multi-sensory and interactive, making use of a variety of resources to stimulate children's interest. Children are taught the 44 phonemes in the English language, each of which has a corresponding action in order to aid memory (Please see your child's class teacher for information which will help you practise these at home). Some of these phonemes can be represented by more than one grapheme (e.g. c, k and ck) and some phonemes are represented by a **digraph** or a **trigraph**. A digraph is a phoneme which is written as 2 letters but only makes one sound (e.g. sh) and a trigraph is a phoneme which is written as 3 letters but only makes one sound (e.g. igh).

It is very important that these phonemes are pronounced correctly in order for children to be able to use them successfully for blending and segmenting. If you need advice on correct pronunciation please see your child's class teacher for guidance (or access the website recommended in this leaflet). As part of their learning, children are also taught how to form letters correctly in both upper and lower cases and when to use these appropriately.

