



Key Stage One Phonics Information

September 2017

On entry in reception the children are systematically taught phonics on a daily basis and with a multi-sensory approach to learning. This involves initially learning the five basic skills of learning the letter sounds and forming the letters. They then move onto blending and identifying sounds in words and finally learning the tricky words. All these skills form the basis of phase 2 phonic skills and are essential to enable the children to progress further with reading and writing. Once the children have gained confidence, recognise the letter sounds, and are beginning to blend and segment they can then move onto the digraphs where they put together two letter sounds to make a new sound for example ai. In addition to this they will continue to develop their blending and segmenting skills and increase their knowledge and understanding of the tricky words. The digraphs are taught as part of Phase 3 and they then begin to look in more detail at word endings and beginnings in Phase 4 for example st and mp. Throughout this process they continue to build on the tricky words and begin to apply the spelling rules using the sounds they have been taught. When they have mastered these skills they can then move onto Phase 5 phonics which looks at alternative sounds and spellings and the children are increasingly expected to apply their knowledge and understanding. In year one and two it is also a key part of the curriculum that the children learn specific grammar terms. For example in year one they learn word endings for the past tense and use er and est correctly at the end of a word. In year two they learn how to use contractions for words like don't and can't. This is taught in addition to their phonics sessions and is also followed up with daily practice.

A variety of resources and schemes are used to support the teaching and learning for the children but essentially they progress through the five phases of Letters and Sounds. Parents are actively encouraged to support the children with activities at home to enable them to progress further. This will involve learning letter sounds and reading. Interactive activities are also available through Wordsmith and these are posted weekly for the children. In Year One and Two it is also a key part of the curriculum that the children learn specific grammar terms.

Termly assessments are carried out by the class teacher and any children that need further support are given appropriate interventions to enable them to achieve their full potential. At the end of year one the children will complete a phonics screening test as part of the governments statutory testing for children. If the children are unable to achieve this at this point in their learning journey they repeat the test the following year.

Should you have any questions then please don't hesitate to ask and we would be happy to answer them.

