



## Phonics Information for parents

### Synthetic phonics

Children are taught the 42 sounds within the English language. Children can then start to read words by blending (synthesising) the sounds together to make a word. Children are taught pure sounds, which encourages them to pronounce each sound clearly without adding any other sounds, for example, fff rather than fuh.

### Phonics at Holbeach St. Marks

In our Preschool, Reception and Year 1 class we use the scheme Jolly Phonics. Jolly Phonics is a fun and child centred approach to teaching literacy through synthetic phonics. With actions for each of the 42 letter sounds, the multi-sensory method is very motivating for children and teachers.

### The five skills taught in Jolly Phonics

#### **1. Learning the letter sounds**

Children are taught the 42 main letter sounds. This includes alphabet sounds as well as digraphs such as sh, th, ai and ue.

1. s, a, t, i, p, n
2. c k, e, h, r, m, d
3. g, o, u, l, f, b
4. ai, j, oa, ie, ee, or
5. z, w, ng, v, oo, oo
6. y, x, ch, sh, th, th
7. qu, ou, oi, ue, er, ar

#### **2. Learning letter formation**

Using different multi-sensory methods, children learn how to form and write the letters.





### 3. Blending

Children are taught how to blend the sounds together to read and write new words.

### 4. Identifying the sounds in words (Segmenting)

Listening for the sounds in words gives children the best start for improving spelling.

### 5. Tricky words

Tricky words have irregular spellings and children learn these separately.



Visit the Jolly Phonics website to hear how to pronounce the sounds.

<http://jollylearning.co.uk/gallery/audio-2/>

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

### How to help

- When reading, if your child stumbles on a word, encourage them to sound it out. ...
- Boost their comprehension and understanding by asking questions.  
...
- Revisit familiar books. ... this can help build their vocabulary and their knowledge of how stories work
- Read aloud and create a love of books





### Phonics Glossary

**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,

**Digraph** - A grapheme containing two letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

**Trigraph** - A grapheme containing three letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

**Oral Blending** - This involves hearing phonemes and being able to merge them together to make a word. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to blend written words.

**Blending**- This involves looking at a written word, looking at each grapheme and using knowledge of phonemes and graphemes to work out what each letter(s) represent. Children can then sound out the word and blend the sounds. This is the basis of reading.

**Oral Segmenting** - This is the act hearing a whole word and then splitting it up into the phonemes that make it. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to segment words to spell them.

**Segmenting** - This involves hearing a word, splitting it up into the phonemes that make it, then writing the matching graphemes down in the right order. This is the basis of spelling.

Letters and sounds 2007

