

# Phonics

The children will have done lots of work in their pre-schools and nurseries on Phase 1 phonics where the emphasis is to get the children attuned to sounds around them and begin to develop their oral blending and segmenting. We will continue to do Phase 1 activities throughout the day.

In Class R we begin by focusing on Phase 2. Letters and their sounds are introduced one at a time. A set of 4 letters is taught each week.

## Phase 2

Set 1 - s, a, t, p

Set2 - i, n, m, d

Set 3 - g, o, c, k

Set 4 - ck, e, u, r

Set 5 – h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

We use Cued Articulation signs to support the learning of sounds – get your child to show you as they learn them.

The children will begin to blend (building words from sounds) to read and segment (breaking words down into sounds to spell).

These will begin with very simple 2 and 3 letter words using the sounds that have been taught. For example using set 1 words

at, sat, pat, sat, sap.

They will be also learning to read and then write the tricky words below. These are words that you cannot use your phonics to read you just need to know them:

I, no, go, the, into, to

## Phase 3

Once the children have completed Phase 2 we move on to Phase 3, in which 25 new sounds are introduced including digraphs (two letters that make one sound).

Set 6-j, v, w, x

Set7-y, z, zz, qu

Consonant digraphs - ch, sh, th, ng

Vowel digraphs - ai, ee, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, er

Vowel trigraphs - igh, ear, air, ure.

## Phase 3 tricky words

We, me, be, was, my, you, they, all, are

The children will be given reading books that correspond to the sounds they are learning or have learnt in class.

## **How you can support your child at home**

Talk and play with your child - this is so important for early literacy. Play games with words. Notice new words in stories, sing songs, make up silly jingles. If you need ideas come and talk to us.

Ask your child what sound they have learned that day. Can they teach you the action and tell what things they can find or know that begin with the sound?

Can they find the sound in a book, can they draw it in the air, can they teach you how the sound is made?

Read lots of books together talk about them and have fun.

Tips for learning at home

- It is important for your child to learn lower case rather than capital letters at first. Children will learn these first at school. Obviously use a capital letter when required, such as at the beginning of the child's name.
- Remember to use letter sounds rather than alphabet names of the letters. Sounding out words using alphabet names is practically impossible.
- When using the sounds b, d, g, j, you will notice the 'uh' sounds which follows it. Try to emphasise the main size and minimise the 'uh'.