

Southwold Primary School and Early Years' Centre



Phonics

A guide to help parents and carers understand the teaching of phonics.



What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching reading, where children learn the letters that go with the speech sounds rather than just learning to recognise whole words.

How do we teach phonics at Southwold Primary School?

Here at Southwold the children are put into groups of similar ability for phonics teaching. All the groups have a 30 minute session on Monday to Thursday, along with a whole class session each Friday. We use the Phonics Scheme called 'Read, Write, Inc.' written by Ruth Miskin, and some aspects of 'Letters and Sounds', the Phonics scheme from the Government. This was developed to help teachers to teach children to read and spell better.

You can find out more about Read, Write, Inc. by following the link below:

<http://www.oup.com/oxed/primary/rwi/forparents/>

What is Synthetic Phonics?

Synthetic phonics is the term the government use for blending sounds together to read a word. This way of reading involves 'decoding' or breaking down words into separate sounds. At Southwold we call this 'Fred Talk'.

Phonics
ee ur ow
wh y au

Why is Phonics so important?

Reading is such an important skill to learn and learning to read English is a bit like learning a code. There are 44 different phonemes (or sounds) and 26 letters. In order to learn how to read and how to spell, the children need to be able to crack this code, and phonics lessons are their 'code breaker'.

In Phonics lessons we:

- Teach all 44 phonemes or sounds
- Teach all the ways these sounds can be written
- Teach the children to blend sounds together to read a word
- Teach children to listen for the separate sounds in words to help with their spelling
- Teach children to look for phonic clues when looking at new words

What do the sounds sound like?

Many people worry about saying the sounds properly. We try to make each sound as pure as possible when we say them. The best way of finding out what they sound like is to listen on-line to Ruth Miskin using the link below, or ask your child's teacher.

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Question/Index/3#saysounds>



Useful websites

There are lots of free resources you can use at home on the Oxford Owls website:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading>

You can also find some more games and resources on the following web pages

www.phonicsplay.co.uk/

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/

www.ictgames.com/dinosaurEggs_phonics/

www.ictgames.com/literacy.html

If you need any other advice please don't be shy! You can come and ask us. This was a new way of teaching for many of us a few years ago, so we remember learning how to do it too!

What is the Key Stage 1 Phonics Screening check?

Every year in June, Key Stage 1 have to complete a screening check for Phonics. This is done mostly in Year 1, but some children in Year 2 take the check too. You will find out the results of the check in your child's report

And remember...

Learning to read fluently and confidently is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn.

