



HERONS' MOOR ACADEMY

Did You Know...?

The English language has:

26 letters



44 sounds

over 100 ways to spell those sounds



It is one of the most complex languages to learn to read and spell.

Letters and Sounds

Letters and Sounds is a resource for the teaching of phonics which was issued by the Department for Education in 2007.

It remains the most common way to teach phonics in British primary schools.

It is divided into six sections, or phases, intended to begin in the preschool years and finish at the end of year 2 (age 7).



The Jargon - A Quick Guide

phonics (also known as 'synthetic phonics') - The teaching of reading by developing awareness of the sounds in words and the corresponding letters used to represent those sounds

phoneme - Any one of the 44 sounds which make up words in the English language

grapheme - How a phoneme is written down. There can be more than one way to spell a phoneme. For example, the phoneme 'ay' is spelt differently in each of the words 'way', 'make', 'fail', 'great', 'sleigh' and 'lady'.

blending - Putting together the sounds in a word in order to read it, e.g. 'f - r - o - g, frog'

segmenting - Breaking a word into its constituent sounds in order to spell them, e.g. 'frog, f - r - o - g'

Teaching Phonics in our School.

Phonics is taught on a daily basis in short, structured sessions.

The sessions include teaching phonics through games and other fun activities.

Phase 1 is taught in Nursery.

Phase 1,2 & 3 are taught in Reception.

Phase 4, 5 & 6 are taught in Year 1.

Phase One

Phase 1 has seven aspects, with a focus on listening skills.

- 1: Environmental sounds
- 2: Instrumental sounds
- 3: Body percussion
- 4: Rhythm and rhyme
- 5: Alliteration
- 6: Voice sounds
- 7: Oral blending and segmenting

Phase Two

In Phase 2, children begin to learn some letter sounds and to match them to graphemes.

Most of the first sounds are single-letter sounds but there are also several digraphs, where one sound is represented by two letters, e.g. 'ck', 'll', 'ss'.

Children also begin to blend the sounds to make words. By the end of Phase 2, children will be able to read some 'vowel-consonant' (vc) and 'consonant-vowel-consonant' (cvc) words, e.g. up, in, cat, pin.

Five sets of letters are introduced - one set per week.

Children will also learn to read the 'tricky' words **the, to, go, I, no**, which cannot be read phonetically.

My Phase 2 Sound Mat

s



a



t



p



i



n



m



d



g



o



c



k



ck



e



u



r



h



b



f



ff



l



ll



ss



Phase Three

Phase 3 usually lasts around 12 weeks. Children are taught another 25 graphemes.

The final single-letter sounds are taught, together with more consonant digraphs (e.g. zz, qu) and several vowel digraphs (e.g. ai, ee, igh).

Children also continue to learn how to blend and segment CVC words using the new sounds, e.g. tail, sheet, night - note that these words still only have three sounds.

Children will then move on to blending and segmenting two-syllable words such as cooker, eating, broken.

Tricky words also continue to be taught.

j

v

w

x

y

z

zz

qu

ch

sh

th

ng

ai

ee

igh

oa

oo

oo

ar

or

ur

ow

oi

ear

air

ure

er

Phase Four

By Phase 4, children are able to represent each of 42 phonemes with a grapheme. Children will be able to read CVC words and begin to segment them to spell them.

Phase 4 is consolidation of children's knowledge. Children also move on to blending and segmenting using adjacent consonants, e.g. st, sp, tr, br, spr, str in words such as string, blow, train.

Phonics teaching continues to be regular and structured and children play games to consolidate their learning.



Phase Five

Children will broaden their knowledge of graphemes and phonemes.

They will learn alternative ways of spelling the phonemes they have already learnt.

They will learn strategies to help them choose the correct grapheme for spelling.

Children will be reading with more and more fluency, no longer needing to 'sound out' most familiar words.

My Phase 5 Sound Mat

ay

ou

ie

ea

oy

ir

ue

ue

aw

wh

ph

ew

ew

oe

au

ey

a-e

e-e

i-e

o-e

u-e

u-e

Click on the link below to find out how to correctly pronounce each letter sound:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-Is

These are the sight or 'tricky' words your child will be taught to read and spell:

Phase 2 Tricky Words

the

to

I

no

go

into

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Phase 3 Tricky Words

you

they

all

are

my

her

he

she

we

me

be

was

twinkl.com

Phase 4 Tricky Words

said

like

do

come

there

little

out

have

so

some

were

one

when

what

twinkl.com

Phase 5 Tricky Words

oh

could

their

people

Mr

Mrs

looked

called

asked

twinkl.com

Helping Your Child at Home

Work on listening skills.

Practise segmenting and blending.

Look for familiar sounds and words in the world around you.

Support your child to complete homework.

Practise new sounds and graphemes.

Read to and with your child **every day**.

Reading At Home:

- Please ensure your child reads at home **at least 5 times per week**.
- Write in your child's planner each time they read at home.
- We always promote reading for pleasure and a life long love of reading.
- Visit local libraries and encourage your child to read a wide range of books including fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

Please contact your child's teacher if you have any queries or Mrs Bennett via email: Andi.Bennett@clf.uk