



Phonics Information Meeting for Year 1 Parents and Carers

Tuesday 14th March

Being able to read is the most important skill children will learn during their early schooling and has far reaching implications for lifelong confidence and well being.

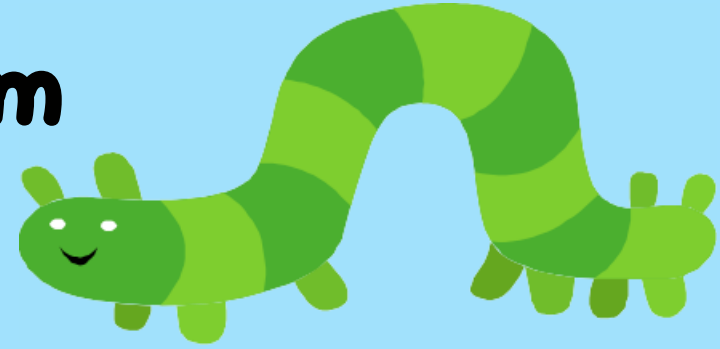
Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised

Our school has chosen *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* as our systematic, synthetic phonics (SSP) programme to teach early reading and spelling.

Phonics is taught daily in EYFS and KS1 and for those children who need extra support in KS2.



**It iz tiem too gow hoam
sed v kator pilla.**



**But iy doat wont 2 gow
howm sed th butt or
flie. Iy wot to staiy
heyr.**



“

Phonics is:

**making connections between the sounds
of our spoken words and the letters that
are used to write them down.**

”



What are speech sounds?

Although there are 26 letters in the English alphabet, there are more than 40 speech sounds.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Some definitions

- **Phoneme – The smallest unit of sound in a word.**

c-a-t

- **Grapheme – What we write to represent a sound/ phoneme – for some phonemes, this could be more than one letter.**

ai

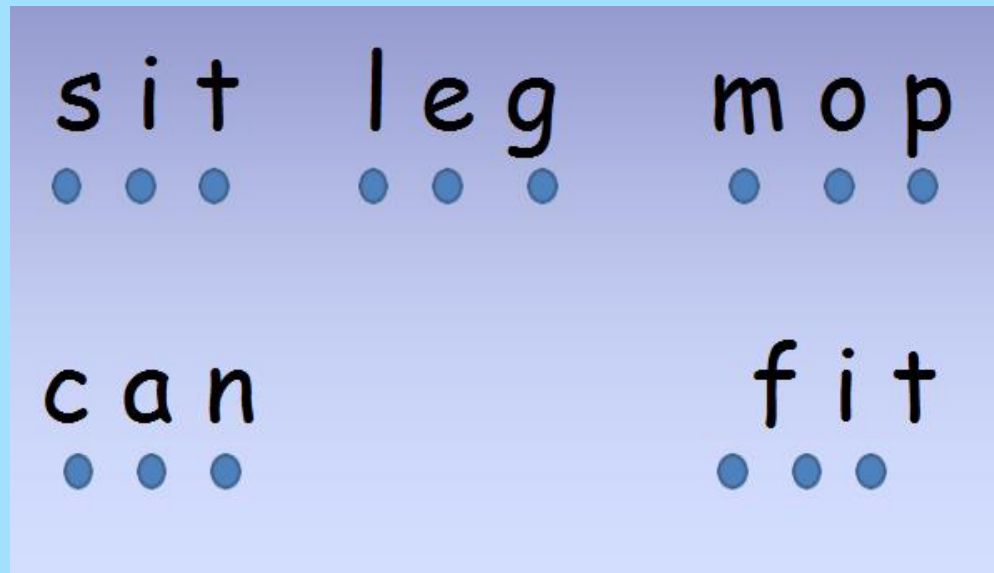
igh

Oral Blending

- **Hearing a series of spoken sounds and merging (blending) them together to make a spoken word – no text is used.**
- **For example, when a teacher calls out /b/u/s, the children say bus.**
- **The skill is usually taught before blending using printed words.**

Blending

- Recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example c- u- p, and blending them in the order which they are written, to read the word 'cup'.



Digraphs

- **Two letters which make one sound.**
- **A consonant digraph contains two consonants next to each other, but they make a single sound.**

e.g. sh, ck, th, ll

- **A vowel digraph contains at least one vowel but the two letters still make a single sound**

e.g. ai ee ar oy

Examples of vowel digraphs

(Vowel digraphs need to contain at least one vowel and make one sound.)

ai

rain

ee

meet

igh

might

oa

coat

oo

zoo

book

ar

car

or

for

ur

burn

ow

cow

blow

oi

coin

ch i ll

— ● —

f or t

● — ●

d u ck

● ● —

th a t

— ● ●

w ai t

● — ●

sh e d

— ● ●

Trigraph

Three letters, which make one sound.

e.g. s igh t f ear ch air

Graphemes

Word

shelf

dress

think































string

sprint









flick

Word	Phonemes					
shelf	sh	e	l	f		
dress	d	r	e	ss		
think	th	i	n	k		
string	s	t	r	i	ng	
sprint	s	p	r	i	n	t
flick	f	l	i	ck		

Grow the code grapheme mat Phase 2, 3 and 5

 s ss c se ce st sc	 t tt	 p pp	 n nn kn gn	 m mm mb	 d dd	 g gg	 c k ck cc ch	 r rr wr	 h
 b bb	 f ff ph	 l ll le al	 j g dge ge	 v vv ve	 w wh	 x	 y	 z zz s se ze	 qu
 ch tch ture	 sh ch ti ssi si ci	 th	 ng	 nk	 a	 e ea	 i y	 o a	 u o-e ou

Grow the code grapheme mat Phase 2, 3 and 5

 ai ay a a-e eigh aigh ey ea	 ee ea e e-e ie y ey	 igh ie i i-e y	 oa o o-e ou oe ow	 oo ue u-e ew ou ui	yoo ue u u-e ew	 ou u* oul	 ar a* al*
 or aw au aur oor al a oar ore	 ur er ir or	 ow ou	 oi oy	 ear ere eer	 air are ere ear	zh su si	

*depending on regional accent

• Sound mat downloadable from the Little Wandle Website

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Tricky Words

Some words can not be sounded out or blended and need to be recognised as a whole e.g.

said the eyes

These are taught as tricky words.

Children develop their ability to do this over time.

Children develop their own way of remembering these words.

What does Phonics look like in each year group?

In Preschool, Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are taught phonics every day.

In KS2 children are taught to apply their understanding of phonics to spell. Some children will access phonics as a group to support their learning.

What strategies do the children use in Year 1 to help them with their phonics?

- **‘Point and sweep’**
- **‘Segmenting fingers’**
- **‘Chunking’**
- **Sound buttons**

Demo...

Phonics Screening Check

- **In Year 1, in June, the children take a phonics screening check.**
- **If the children do not pass the screening check they resit the check in Year 2.**

Why are the children being screened?

The aim of the check is to ensure that all children are able to read by the end of their time in primary school.



What will the children be expected to do?

- The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons.

- Children will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together. E.g. d-o-g - dog



- The focus of the check is to see which sounds the children know and therefore the children will be asked to read made up 'alien' words.

- There are 40 words in total that increase in difficulty

Examples of words:

in

at

beg

sum

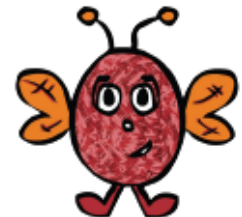
ot



vap



osk



ect



Examples of words:

brend



throst



stret



spraw



label

vanish

blossom

thankful

It's not a test!!!

- We don't want the children to worry at this young age about sitting a test.

- We call the screening check **Phonics Cards**

- A letter will be sent home after the test informing you on how your child got on.

- If your child does not reach the pass mark they **will have another chance to retake** and they will have additional support with their reading and phonics.



When will the screening take place?

- Week beginning 12th June
- The children cannot retake the test at any other time so it is very important your child is in school during this week.
- The check has been designed so that children of all abilities will be able to take part.

Who will complete the check?

- The children will complete the check one at a time in a quiet area of the school.
- Mrs Sarll will conduct all of the screening checks with the children.
- The children will have practice opportunities throughout the school year, so the check will not be new to them.
- The screening will only take 5-10 mins with each child.

How can you help?

- Encourage your child to 'sound out' when reading or writing. Focusing particularly on spotting more unusual sound patterns.

Eg

Digraph- 2 letters making one sound

cow

Trigraphs- 3 letters making one sound

night

Split digraphs- 2 vowels with a consonant inbetween. Used to be known as the magic e!

spine - i_e

How can you help?

- Encourage your child to use their sounds when writing or reading.
- Children can practise their phonics by playing games online. The children particularly like the 'Obb and Bob' game (on www.phonicsplay.co.uk under Resources).
- You can also download previous tests off of the Government website by searching 'Year 1 Screening Check'

How can you help?

- REMEMBER: Phonics is not the only thing needed to become a fluent reader.
- Please continue to read with your child each night and encourage them to:
 - Sound out and 'chunk' longer words
 - Re-read to check it makes sense.
 - Use pictures for clues.
 - Ask questions about the book.
 - And most importantly ENJOY READING!

Questions?



If you think of any further questions after this meeting, please feel free to speak to Miss Newberry or Mrs Sarll after school or alternatively email admin@campshill.herts.sch.uk and your email will be forwarded on to us.