



## **PHONICS EVENING**

**An explanation of terms, a guide to what is taught and ways in which you can help your child learn to read.**

# WHY WE TEACH PHONICS?

So that children can quickly progress from

**“learning to read”**

**to**

**“reading to learn”.**



# LETTERS AND SOUNDS- PHASE 1

## BEFORE BEING INTRODUCED TO LETTERS...

- General Sound Discrimination – Environmental
- General Sound Discrimination – Instrumental
- General Sound Discrimination – Body percussion
- Rhythm and Rhyme
- Alliteration (e.g. I spy games)
- Voice Sounds
- Oral Blending and Segmenting



## SOME DEFINITIONS

### *Blending*

Recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example **c-u-p**, and merging or synthesising them in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word 'cup'



## SOME DEFINITIONS

### *Segmenting*

Identifying the individual sounds in a spoken word (e.g. **h-i-m**) and writing down or manipulating letters for each sound to form the word 'him'



# SOME DEFINITIONS

## *Oral blending*

Hearing a series of spoken sounds and

- merging 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'*
- This skill is usually taught before blending
- and reading printed words



## SOME DEFINITIONS

*Decode* is another way to say “read”- you have to know the ‘code’- how the writing system works-in order to make sense of the squiggles on the page.

Not many of us here can decode Chinese but we are all expert decoders of English.



## SOME DEFINITIONS

A *phoneme* is the smallest unit of sound in a word

There are 45 phonemes in English but only 26 letters of the alphabet so we are precise in using this term with the children because a letter does not necessarily equal a sound





# Pronunciation

These phonemes make a continuous sound:

s s s s s s

n n n n n n

m m m m m

l l l l l l l

r r r r r r r

v v v v v v v

f f f f f f f

z z z z z z z



# SOME DEFINITIONS

## *Digraph*

Two letters, which make one sound

A consonant digraph contains two consonants

sh ck th ll

A vowel digraph contains at least one vowel

ai ee ar oi



## SOME DEFINITIONS

### *Trigraph*

Three letters, which make one sound

igh

air



## HIGH FREQUENCY WORDS

- The majority of high frequency words are phonically regular
- Some exceptions – for example ***the*** and ***was*** – should be directly taught



# THE DAILY PHONICS LESSON

- Revisit and Review
- Teach
- Practise
- Apply



# HOME LEARNING

- Phoneme cards
- Letter formation sheets/names writing practice card
- Common exception words/sight words
- Home Readers
- Spellings
- Target files





**Phonics Bug**

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# HOW WE (YOU AND US) CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

- Playing I Spy games.
- Good quality time together sharing books.
- Talking and listening to your child!
- Have fun using 'Robot talk/toy talk' with your child.
- Sing the alphabet with your child.
- Play the games we send home e.g. letter cards, word boxes, sight words
- Change library books and home readers often.

