

Phonics and Early Reading The Royal School



Introduction

At The Royal School, we believe becoming fluent and comprehensive readers is key to accessing learning across the whole curriculum. Phonics teaching begins in EYFS and continues throughout KS1, concluding when children are confident, fluent and skilful readers and writers. Children are also taught to read through their daily English lessons, guided reading lessons, reading with others and the sharing of class stories and texts.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. Phonics teaches children how to recognise the sounds that individual letters and combinations of letters (such as sh, ee, ai) make and blend these sounds together to make a word.

Children begin with oral blending and segmenting of words, and gradually build up to reading words containing more complex sounds using written letters, including alternate pronunciations for the same letter combinations.

Children are explicitly taught how to blend sounds together to make sounds, for example 'sh-ee-p becomes sheep. To support spelling, children are taught how to segment, whereby words are broken up into sounds, for example 'goat' is segmented into g-oa-t.

Phonics should be the prime approach to early reading and writing. Whenever children meet unfamiliar words either in reading or writing, they should be taught to use phonic skills and knowledge first to decode or spell the word.

How is phonics organised at The Royal School?

All at the Royal School plan to teach phonics sessions so that they are: pacy, positive and purposeful. We are explicit in our teaching and practise, practise, practise to develop automaticity and confidence.

We teach phonics systematically following the Lesley Clarke Abridged Letters and Sounds Programme. We teach the sound and letter combinations (known as phoneme-grapheme correspondences) in a specific order set out by Lesley Clarke. The children move through the phases set out as their phonetic knowledge and skills develop. Children are taught phonics for 30 minutes daily and focus on sounds within the appropriate phase for their development.

Lesley Clarke's Abridged Letters and Sounds Programme outlines 6 Phases, which begin in EYFS and usually conclude in Year 2. To summarise, Phase 2 begins in nursery and focuses on speaking and listening skills. Phase 2, 3 and 4 are taught in Reception and consolidated in Year 1. Children cover Phase 5 in Year 1 and then learn the spelling rules of Phase 6 in Year 2. More details on the content of each Phase is saved on our website.

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Autumn	Phase 1 and 2	Phase 4/5	Review phase 5 then Phase 6
Spring	Phase 3	Phase 5	Phase 6
Summer	Phase 3/4	Phase 5	Phase 6

What vocabulary should be used?

At The Royal School, we use specific phonetic vocabulary with the children from Reception.

Key Definitions:

- A **phoneme** is the sound a letter or group of letters make.
- A **grapheme** is the written letter or letters representing a sound.
- A **digraph** is two letters making one sound, for example 'ay' or 'ou'.
- A **trigraph** is three letters making one sound, for example 'igh' or 'dge'
- **Split digraph** is a digraph where the two letters making the sound are not next to each other. For example, a-e makes the 'ay' sound in the words make, cake, place.
- **Blending** is recognising the letter sounds in a written word and then merging them in the order in which they are written, for example, c-oa-t would blend together to make coat.
- **Segmenting** is identifying the individual sounds in spoken words and writing down letters for each sound to form words, for example breaking the word sharp into the sounds sh-ar-p.

How is Phonics taught at The Royal School?

- ✓ We are fortunate in that all staff have received phonics training from Lesley Clarke and are skilled in teaching fun, interactive phonics lessons.
- ✓ Teachers follow planning and progression mapped out by Lesley Clarke. This includes carefully selected words. Teachers make informed choices about which sounds/ words to use in each session to ensure progression.
- ✓ We use specific actions, rhymes and mnemonics to help us remember our sounds, (these have been lifted from Read, Write Inc and Teacher Play resources)
- ✓ We use a range of resources such as flashcards, songs, websites and practical games to make our phonics lessons fun and engaging. Teachers may select their own games and activities to match the needs of the children.
- ✓ To ensure consistency, we use the same sound cards, sound mats and charts in each classroom.
- ✓ Phonics Lessons follow a similar structure each day whereby teachers **revisit** (recap previous sounds)- **teach** (introduce new sounds)- **practise** (practise reading and writing words containing the new sound) and **apply** new sounds (use new sound in a sentence).
- ✓ Teachers model correct pronunciation and careful oral blending and segmenting, we use robot arms and phoneme fingers to support this.
- ✓ We teach tricky words using games and songs. Tricky words cannot be decoded using the usual phonetic code and need to be learned to read on sight, for example 'said, the'



- ✓ Phonics interventions and additional daily reading is put in place to support children who are struggling to make progress.
- ✓ Phonics lessons are pacy, purposeful and positive. Children are actively engaged in learning to read and write words and engage in fun games and activities.

How is Phonics assessed?

Progress in phonics is assessed as an ongoing process daily during phonics and reading sessions. We also assess formally using Phase assessment sheets, which follow the children from Reception through the school in a class leaver arch file. The phases that each child is secure in are recorded on a class progress tracker. Formal assessments of Phonics takes place once a half-term.

PHASE 5

1. Grapheme-Phonic Correspondence

ay		ay	
wh		a-e	
ou		ir	
ph		e-e	
ie		ue	
ew		i-e	
ea		aw	
oe		o-e	
au		u-e	

2. Oral Blending – Word to be read by the child from the card using 'Fred Talk' Practise items : p – l – ay = play

Word to be read	Tick if correct, if incorrect, record what the child said.
1. spray	
2. sprout	
3. tried	
4. treat	

Phonics Progress
Class: EYFS

Name	Male/ Female	Pupil Premium	SEN	September	December	March	July
Name	F			Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 4
Name	F			Phase 1	Phase 1	Phase 3	Phase 4
Name	M	Y		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 4
Name	F			Phase 1	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Name	M			Phase 1	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Name	F			Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 3





What is the Phonics Screening Check?

All Year 1 children take part in a statutory phonics assessment called the Phonics Screening Check. This is a national assessment and it usually takes place in June. The results are reported to the Department for Education.

The Phonics Screening Check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to the expected standard. Year 1 teachers are responsible for using previous years practice papers to prepare their classes. In Year 2, there may be some children who did not reach the expected standard whilst in Year 1, and these children will to re-sit the phonics check again.

What happens during the Phonics Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check comprises of 20 real and 20 pseudo (nonsense) words, which the children read individually to a teacher. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. Following the Phonics Screening Check, the children's results are reported to their parents and Department for Education. They will confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected standard will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

Practice sheet: Real words		Practice sheet: Pseudo words	
in		ot	
at		vap	
beg		osk	
sum		ect	

- ✓ Reading with your child every night. The children will bring reading scheme books home each night to read at home. Children may also use Rising Stars to read online.
- ✓ Share books, stories and poems as much as possible, these can be any books or stories that you have at home or online. Read to your child as often as you can.

- ✓ If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right and then blend the sounds together. You can demonstrate oral blending to your child, for example, 'r-ai-n blends into rain'.
- ✓ Play lots of speaking and listening games with your child, such as guess the sound, Simon Says, or Eye-Spy. Focus on playing games that encourage your child to listen, identify and manipulate the sounds in words, for example, what rhymes with.....?
- ✓ Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not understand what they have read, this will help your child develop their comprehension skills. Ask lots of questions about the book you are sharing.
- ✓ Display sounds and picture cards around the house to help your child recall the sounds. Speak to your child's teacher for specific advice or if you require sound/mnemonic mats.
- ✓ Play games to engage your child. For example hide sounds to make a treasure hunt, play memory games, bingo or sorting activities.
- ✓ Play teachers and encourage your child to show you what they have been learning.
- ✓ Look on Teams/ School Webs for videos and guidance from teachers.
- ✓ Read the room and surrounding environments. Look for familiar words in the environment and practise reading signs such as 'stop, exit' Ask your child to spot letters and sounds and show them how to blend into words.

Useful Websites

Phonics Play <https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

There are lots of free games on here. The games are sorted into phases and available on phones, laptops and tablets. Speak to your teacher if you require a log in.

Rising Stars <https://my.risingstars-uk.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>

Centre number: 115494 Log in details can be aquired from your class teacher.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/>

There are lots of guidance about how to pronounce different sounds and videos which demonstrate correct pronunciation and blending.

Search Tricky Words on YouTube- these videos are fantastic for learning tricky words.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaqI5-0dMM&list=PLLhLRwvEimbCmlsDJXwS2PqC0LvvlVTu&index=5>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2dx65u59aw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ri4u0TjAZ38>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NOzgR1ANc4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvMyssfAUx0&list=PLLhLRwvEimbCmlsDJXwS2PqC0LvIVT>

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