

How can parents/carers help?

Children benefit greatly from a love of reading for pleasure. Parents can encourage this by telling or reading stories and playing games such as 'I Spy', which is excellent to tune your child's ear to sounds. Remember to use pure sounds instead of letter names. E.g. I spy with my little eye something beginning with a (sounding like 'ahhh' not 'ay')

From the first days in Primary 1, children will have phonics based homework which they will bring home regularly to practice the sounds they have been learning. In these early days, picture books will be sent home to discuss and enjoy.

Later parents can continue this support by practising Tricky Words and Homework Writing Lists that teachers send home, as well as listening to their child read then discussing the story.

As soon as your child has learned the first set of sounds, challenge your child to blend letters together to make 3 letter words initially.

E.g. ssssss.....aaaaa.....t = sat

Can they take away the ssss and add another sound to make a new word?

Westfield Primary School



Literacy & English in the Early Years



Information for Parents/Carers

We hope you find this information helpful when talking to your child about their work

May 2018

What is Colourful Consonants?

Two of the approaches in teaching children about phonics are 'Jolly Phonics' and 'Colourful Consonants and Vowel House'. These approaches teach letter sounds in a way that is fun and multi-sensory. Children learn how to use the letter sounds to read and write words.

5 Main Teaching Points

1. Learning the letter sounds.
2. Learning how to form the letters.
3. Blending the letters together to form words.
4. Identifying sounds in words.
5. Tricky Words - irregular words which can't be sounded out.

Resources

We have a wide range of resources including:

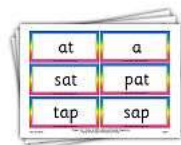
- Jolly Songs CD for learning a song for each sound.
- Songbirds and Dandelion readers which use simple words which the children can decode using sounds or 'tricky' words which have already been taught.
- Wall displays which children can refer.
- Magnetic letters
- Touchtronic interactive letters for ipads



How do we start?

The 44 main sounds of English are taught (not just the alphabet) and they are introduced in a special order so that very quickly words can be made.

For example:
Group 1 letters



m c,k s p a t i n c k

mat cap sit pin tap nap sack

Each sound has a colour and may have an action or a song.

The children will also practice writing the letter shape in the air, in sand, with paint and brushes, then finally with pencils and paper.

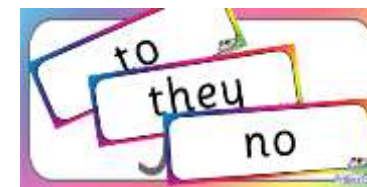
New sounds are taught weekly, so the pace of learning is fast. We have found children are usually highly motivated and very enthusiastic.

It is important that the sounds are taught as pure sounds to enable the children to hear the sounds blending together e.g. M would sound like 'mmmmm' not 'mih' or 'em'

What Happens Next?

Once children are able to blend letters together, they will be able to read 3 or 4 letter words independently and also start writing simple sentences.

Ways for learning 'Tricky Words' will be taught.



Tricky words are words the children have to learn by sight as they often cannot be sounded out using their knowledge of phonics. E.g. the, she, was, to

At this stage, Reading Books will be sent home with a Reading Record booklet where parents can sign and comment.

