

Phonics Information

At Leasowes we follow the Letters and Sounds programme for delivering our Phonics lessons. Letters and Sounds is a fun and interactive way to support children in learning how to read and write.

The alphabet contains only 26 letters, however spoken English uses about 44 sounds (phonemes). These phonemes are represented by letters (graphemes). In other words, a sound can be represented by a letter (e.g. 'a' or 's') or a group of letters (e.g. 'sh' or 'ai')

We use a programme called 'Jolly Phonics' to help children to learn each letter sound. Jolly Phonics represents each sound with an action helping the children to remember them more easily. Children will bring home an action card for each sound they learn.

The children will then start to use some of these sounds to read and write simple words.

There are six phases of letters and sounds taught from Nursery to Year 2. Phase 1 begins in Nursery, Phase 2, 3 and 4 are taught in Reception and consolidated in Year 1. Children are then taught phase 5 in Year 1 and Phase 6 in Year 2.

What do all the technical words mean?

Phoneme /Grapheme

Children are taught all the sounds (**phonemes**) in the English language and ways of writing them down (**graphemes**).

Initially children will be taught one letter for each phoneme e.g. 's' 'a'. In Phase 3 they will then be introduced to **digraphs** (2 letters making 1 sound e.g. "sh" "ai") and **trigraphs** (3 letters making 1 sound e.g. "igh" "ear")

Blending

Children are taught to be able to blend. This is when children say the sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sounds together until they can hear what the word is. This skill is vital in learning to read.

Segmenting

Children are also taught to segment. This is the opposite of blending. Children are able to say a word and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up. This skill is vital in being able to spell words.

CVC, CCVC, CVCC

CVC means Consonant, Vowel, Consonant e.g. “cat”, “map”.

CCVC means Consonant, Consonant, Vowel, Consonant e.g. “stop”, “frog”.

CVCC means Consonant, Vowel, Consonant, Consonant e.g. “lamp”, “milk”.

The Phonics Phases taught in Reception.

Phase 1

Phase 1 focuses on developing children’s speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2. The emphasis in Phase 1 is to get the children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.

Phase 2

In Phase 2, letters and sounds are introduced one at a time. A set of letters is taught each week in the following sequence:

Set 1: s,a,t,p

Set 2: i,n,m,d

Set 3: g,o,c,k

Set 4: ck,e,u,r

Set 5: h,b,f,ff,l,ll,ss

The children will begin to blend and segment simple words for reading and spelling.

Tricky words introduced:

I	the	to
no	go	into

Phase 3

By the time they reach Phase 3, children will already be able to blend and segment words containing the 19 letters taught in Phase 2.

They will then be introduced to the twenty five new graphemes in Phase 3.

Set 6: j,v,w,x

Set 7: y,z,zz,qu

Consonant digraphs: ch,sh,th,ng

Vowel digraphs: ai,ee,oa,oo,ar,or,ur,ow,oi,er

Vowel trigraphs: igh,air,ear,ure

Tricky words introduced:

he	she	we	me	be	they
you	my	her	was	all	are

Phase 4

By Phase 4 children will be able to represent each of the 42 phonemes with a grapheme. They will blend phonemes to read CCVC and CVCC words and segment these words for spelling. They will also be starting to read simple two-syllable words. They will be able to read all the tricky words learnt so far and will be able to spell some of them.

This phase consolidates all the children have learnt in the previous phases.

Tricky words introduced:

so	do	said	have	some	come	like
little	there	one	when	out	what	were

By this point children would be expected to be reading CVC words at speed along with the tricky words from previous phases. It is important that children are taught that blending is only used when a word is unfamiliar.