

# PHONICS IN RECEPTION..

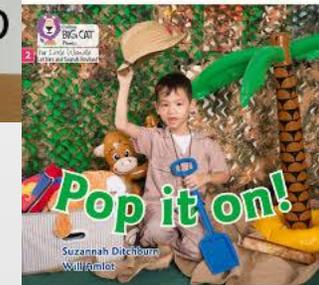
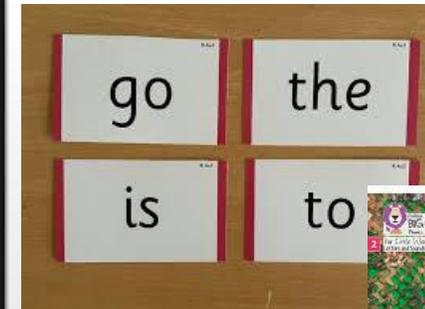
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Understanding and Supporting  
your child through  
Phonics in their Reception Year.



# WHAT IS PHONICS?

- Phonics is a method for teaching reading and writing.
- It develops phonemic awareness - the ability to hear, recognise and use the sounds within words.
- Learners are also taught the correspondence between sounds and the graphemes (spelling patterns) that represent them.
- Phonics is currently the main way in which children in British primary schools are taught to read in their earliest years.
- Children will also be taught other skills, such as whole-word recognition (see 'tricky words'), book skills and a love and enjoyment of reading.



# WHY ARE CHILDREN TAUGHT PHONICS?

- Phonics, taught in a structured way, is generally accepted to be the most effective way to teach reading and writing.
  - Children learn to hear and recognise sounds in words and spell them correctly.
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- This assists with their confidence, accuracy and fluency.
  - Phonics should not be taught in isolation – children also need to learn other reading and comprehension skills alongside phonic knowledge.



# HOW DO WE TEACH PHONICS IN RECEPTION?

- We follow the 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds' programme to take the children from hearing and recognising sounds to reading words and ultimately reading and writing sentences by themselves!

- It is divided into phases, intended to begin in the preschool years and finish at the end of Year 1.

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- You can visit the website for full information on the phonics programme that we will be following:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/>

- There is also lots of useful tips to help at home for parents on the Little Wandle website.



# HOW DO WE TEACH PHONICS IN RECEPTION?

- Children are taught reading and spelling daily throughout the week, and each phonic session follows a structured format.
  - We have our Little Wandle phonic sessions every morning.
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- Teachers will assess children's understanding throughout each session and will also assess knowledge of sounds to see whether a child is ready to move on to the next phase.
  - Keep up sessions are given to any child in need of extra support.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING SKILLS..

- Phonics learning relies on children being able to hear and distinguish the sounds within words.

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- Children with poor listening and/or attention skills can struggle with phonics learning.
- Listening skills begin at birth and there are lots of things that parents and carers can do to support these skills.
- Children are also taught listening and attention skills during their early years education (age 0-5).
- The first phase of formal phonics education (Phase 1) also focuses on key listening skills. Without these skills, children may struggle to master the next stage of their phonics learning.



# WE CONSOLIDATE PHASE 1 AND BEGIN PHASE 2..

Phase 1 has seven aspects, with a focus on these all important listening skills. We consolidate the important Phase 1 skills that children have acquired in their Nursery year and introduce Phase 2 as soon as the children are settled and ready in Reception, this is usually within the first weeks.

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1: Environmental sounds

2: Instrumental sounds

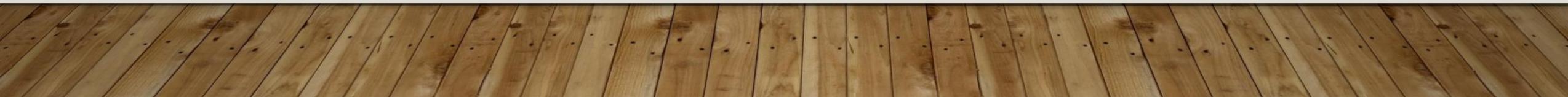
3: Body percussion

4: Rhythm and rhyme

5: Alliteration

6: Voice sounds

**7: Oral blending and segmenting**



# WE TEACH PHASE 2, 3 AND 4

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**As soon as the children are settled and ready (this is usually in the first weeks) we begin Phase 2 phonic teaching following the Little Wandle Programme.**

Children will be taught phonics as a whole class with any child at risk of falling behind given ‘Keep Up’ sessions to support their development.

For detailed information on the half termly progression throughout Reception, including the sounds and words that we cover – please visit the ‘Curriculum’ section of our website where you will find a detailed breakdown in the ‘Phonics and Reading’ document.

The Little Wandle Website also has excellent support for parents; <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/>

# LETTER FORMATION AND PENCIL CONTROL

As your child begins to be able to form the letters and sounds of Phase 2 it is very important that they hold their pencil correctly and start their letters in the correct place.

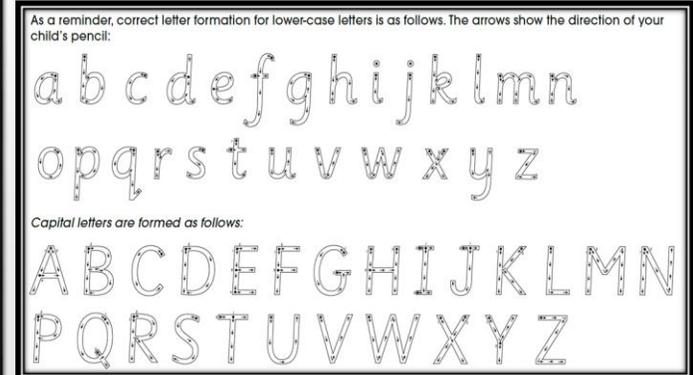
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If we get the children into good habits now they will be able to progress quickly as they move into KS1.

Having lots of paper and pens around the house will give them opportunities to show you what they can do!

Please watch this clip to help you to help your child hold their pencil correctly.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPg9qpq6Hhg>



# HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD AT HOME?

Work on listening skills.

Play Eye Spy together.

Practise segmenting and blending

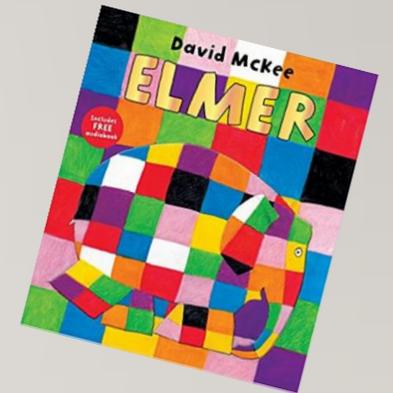
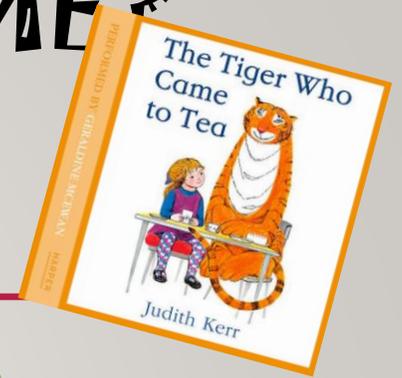
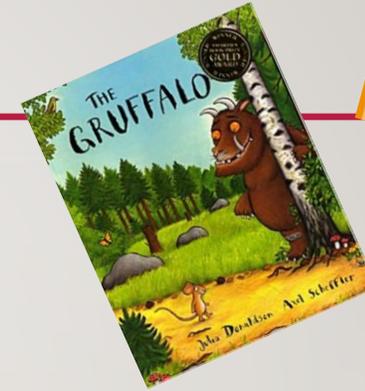
Look for familiar sounds and words in the world around you.

Support your child to complete homework focused on our weekly sounds.

Practise new sounds and graphemes.

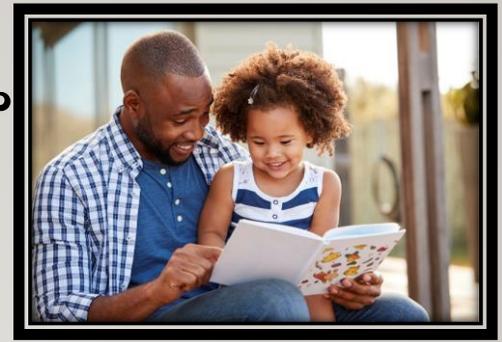
Read to and with your child **every day**.

Sing songs and Nursery rhymes together.



# DAILY READING AT HOME.

At Fairfield's we expect that you read daily with and to your child.



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At first this will be a picture book that you can discuss with your child to expand their vocabulary and practice sequencing events.

As their phonics progresses they will have a book with words to apply their phonic knowledge in order to read. They will be able to read to you using their phonic knowledge.

The children will have access to our library and they can bring home one book a week to read and share with you too.

We expect that you record in your child's 'Reading Record' when you have read with them. Their books and the record must be kept in their book bag and brought to school every day so we can read with them too.

**We will let you know how they are progressing with comments and targets in their reading records every week.**

# WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU AND YOUR CHILD...

Please do not hesitate to come and see us if there is anything at all that we can help you with this year. We will always get back to you.

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Please don't forget that all children develop and progress at different rates and it is not helpful to compare them to each other.

**Remember: "There's no comparison between the sun and the moon.  
They shine when it is their time. "**

