



## Helping your child with Phonics



To be a successful reader and writer children need to understand how to decode (read words) and encode (spell words).

### What is synthetic phonics?

Phonics is the knowledge necessary to read and write. The English alphabetic code is very complex, so children need to be taught the correspondences between letters and sounds and the skills to blend those sounds together.

Currently our programme for the teaching of phonics in school is BugClub phonics. In Spring 2022 this will change to 'Little Wandle' phonics.



## Our approach to teaching

### Phonics

We believe phonics plays a vital part in the education of children at Doddinghurst Infant School. It supports their access to all areas of the curriculum by helping to develop confident and fluent readers and to develop a love for reading and writing.

#### INTENT:

- To develop the delivery and opportunities for phonics fluency for all children.
- To teach a rich, balanced and creative curriculum using phonics to support other areas of the curriculum through reading and writing.
- To deliver daily, high quality phonics lessons.
- To use a range of strategies to engage all types of learners, including repetition and whole class and individual practice sessions.

Phonics planning shows clear progression, taking into account children's prior experience and grasp of phonics.

## How is my child supported with Phonics?

Phonics lessons are differentiated and provide age appropriate challenges. In Phonics this looks like practising key skills, repeating, reinforcing and revising. Children are given time to practise and perfect their phonic knowledge including giving them opportunity to apply what they have learnt in a range of situations.

In school, during phonic lessons, the children regularly hear terms that are specific to the teaching of phonics.

### What is a phoneme?

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

Example: /k/



### What is a grapheme?

A **grapheme** is the way we write a phoneme.

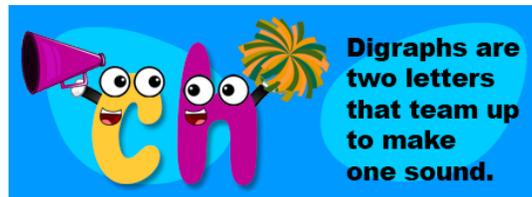
Example: /k/ can be written 5 ways  
c k ck qu ch



## GRAPHEME

A letter or combination of letters that represent the smallest unit of sound in speech  
What phonemes look like (Graphemes are 1-4 letters long)

sun	3 phonemes 3 graphemes 3 letters	cat	3 phonemes 3 graphemes 4 letters
three	3 phonemes 3 graphemes 5 letters	boat	3 phonemes 3 graphemes 4 letters
hedgehog	6 phonemes 6 graphemes 8 letters	light	3 phonemes 3 graphemes 5 letters
eight	2 phonemes 2 graphemes 5 letters	doughnut	5 phonemes 5 graphemes 8 letters



## Blends & Digraphs

What is the Difference?

**What is a Blend?**  
two letters  
put together  
you hear **two** sounds

s l  
s l  
s l

**FREE Posters Included!**

**What is a Digraph?**  
two letters  
put together  
you hear **one** sound

s h  
s h  
sh

*this Reading mama*

### Phonics

#### Trigraph

A group of three letters generating one sound is called trigraph.

Examples:

match, catch  
screen  
sphere



For a complete guide to all the English terms taught in school, check out the **Primary Literacy Glossary**

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/primary-literacy-glossary-for-parents>

## How can parents help?

This is most likely very different to the way in which you learnt to read and spell. There are lots of websites that are helpful in supporting parents with phonics at home.

- Make use of the Bug Club resources online. They will support what your child has been learning in class.



- YouTube channels like [‘Mr T’s phonics’](#) and [‘Alphablocks’](#), or the [Oxford Owl website](#), can help with the correct pronunciation of the sounds.
- Encourage your children to say each phoneme correctly as they read and form each grapheme correctly as they write.
- Encourage your child to listen for the phoneme as they decode (read) and encode (spell).



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