

## PHONICS – A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Phonic teaching is an important part of literacy skills. At Nailsworth C of E Primary School we aim to teach children fluent word reading skills and provide a good foundation in spelling.

### **What is phonic teaching?**

Phonic teaching involves showing children the sounds of letters (not the letter names) and how these sounds can be blended together to make words. E.g. the word 'cat' is a decodable word because the letter sounds can be blended together.

c - a - t → cat

At Nailsworth C of E Primary School we teach phonics using a government scheme called 'Letters and Sounds'. This is organised into six phonic phases which your child progresses through as their reading ability improves. Phases 1 - 3 are usually taught in Reception, phase 4 and 5 in Year 1 and phase 6 in Year 2.

**Phase 1** (starting in Nursery) Children learn rhymes, keep rhythms and start to relate letter sounds to words, e.g. b for bag.

**Phase 2** Children learn initial letter sounds and build 3 letter words (with the use of sound books).

**Phase 3** Children learn all 44 phonemes and blend sounds to read words (with the use of sound books).

**Phase 4** Children blend consonants together to read difficult words, e.g. blue, grab.

**Phase 5** Children learn how to spell letter sounds in more than one way, e.g. rain, day, make.

**Phase 6** Children learn how to spell word specific spellings, e.g. turned, beautiful, shopping.

Your child will be assessed and placed within a phonic phase group within the class setting. When your child has mastered a phonic phase they will be moved to the next group. They will continue to do this until they get to Phase 6.

### **How will phonics be taught?**

At Nailsworth C of E Primary School your child will have a daily 25 minute phonic session. The session will be split into four sections:

**Revisit & review** the previous sound and word building.

**Teach** a new phonic skill.

**Practise** the new skill.

**Apply** in different situations, e.g. Reading in a sentence or writing the word in a sentence.

### **How can you help your child?**

We aim for phonic teaching to be a fun way of learning to read and spell.

Phonic teaching is applied to all lessons within school to further promote the children's reading and writing skills.

We would like you to help apply the children's phonic skills when reading books or when writing at home. **The more practise the better!**

Alongside teaching phonics we will teach the children to read decodable words and tricky words. Please practise these at home.

**Decodable words** = the letter sounds can be blended together e.g. p - a - n → pan

**Tricky words** = individual letter sounds do not create the word e.g. the, was, are.

Thank you for your continued support.

Early Years and Key Stage 1 Teaching Team

## PHASE 2

### **Decodable Words**

a	had
an	back
as	and
at	get
if	big
in	him
is	his
it	not
of	got
off	up
on	mum
can	but
dad	put (north)

### **Tricky Words**

the  
to  
I  
no  
go  
into

## PHASE 3

### **Decodable Words**

will	see
that	for
this	now
then	down
them	look
with	too

### **Tricky Words**

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

#### **PHASE 4**

##### **Decodable Words**

went

it's

from

children

just

help

##### **Tricky Words**

said

have

like

so

do

some

come

were

there

little

one

when

out

what

#### **PHASE 5**

Note that some of the words that were tricky in earlier phases become fully decodable in Phase 5

##### **Decodable Words**

don't

old

I'm

by

time

house

about

your

day

made

came

make

here

saw

very

put (south)

##### **Tricky Words**

oh

their

people

Mr

Mrs

looked

called

asked

could