



# Learning to read at Avonwood

# Welcome!

- What is phonics?
- The alphabetic code
- Blending
- Reading and books
- Reading at home
- Spelling
- Concerns about progress
- Questions and next steps





# We love reading!

- Reading for pleasure
- Finding out information
- Reading the world around them
- Understanding forms and official documents
- Accessing learning
























# What is Phonics?

- Link between the words we say and the letters that represent each sound.
- Grapheme – the written letter or groups of letters
- Phoneme – the sounds that the grapheme makes.



# What is Phonics?



Ss 	Aa 	Tt 	Pp 	li 	Nn 
Mm 	Dd 	Gg 	Oo 	Cc 	Kk 
ck 	Ee 	Uu 	Rr 	Hh 	Bb 
Ff 	ff 	Ll 	ll 	ss 	

# Teaching of Phonics



**Phonics is . . .** Skills of segmenting and blending + knowledge of the alphabetic code



Phonics teaching is organised into phases



It is taught in Foundation, Year 1, Year 2 and KS2 where necessary

# The Alphabetic Code



**44  
phonemes**

**Simple  
Code**

**Complex  
Code**

# Blending

- Pushing the phonemes together to make a word.



- Fun – Funny - Funniest
- Crepuscular





# Blending



c a t

cat

# Blending



ch i ck

**chick**

# Phase 1

Explore and experiment with sounds and words – Nursery Rhymes

Listening and identifying different sounds in the environment – Listening walks

Hearing first sounds of words playing

I spy

Learning to orally blend and segment sounds in words – robot hands, phoneme fingers

Phase 1 will then overlap into Phase 2.

# Phase 2



We learn the first 21 letters and sounds

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

Teach another 25 phonemes and graphemes.

**Set 6:** j v w x

**Set 7:** y z, zz qu

**Consonant digraphs:** ch sh th ng

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

**Trigraphs:** ear air ure

**Teach reading and writing tricky words:** he, she, we, me, be, you, are, they,  
all



# Phase 4



Consolidation phase: Children begin to blend and segment longer words. For example...

**CCVC** - step clap

**CVCC** - list

**Longer words e.g. CCVCC** - grasp strap

Phase 5  
(throughout Year One)



Phase 5a – New sounds

Phase 5b – Alternative pronunciations

Phase 5c – Alternative spellings

## Yr 2 onwards



Children will continue to consolidate all they have learnt in the previous phases, developing their fluency for reading. (Mastery)

They will also begin to learn spelling rules and patterns.





# Common Exception Words

*the*

*to*

*into*

*no*

*l*

*go*

# Reading and Books

- Children will be given books when they can blend – this will be different for every child
- Books precisely match children's phonics attainment



# Reading at Avonwood

- Phonic books will exactly match your child's phonic ability and will be fully decodable. The expectation is that your child should read the phonic text sent home **at least three times**.
- This gives your child the opportunity to develop the following:
  - - Fluency (95%)
  - - Prosody (expression and intonation)
  - - Vocabulary and comprehension



# Reading at Avonwood

- A reading log will be provided for you to complete each time your child reads their school book.
- High 5, whole school initiative
- The reading logs will be checked and signed by the teacher and noted after every 5 reads. Please keep the log in your book bag every day.



# Reading at Avonwood

- Your child will visit the school library weekly. The library book is a 'sharing' book which will help develop a love for reading and being read to. This will also help to create a sense of ownership over reading choices.



# Reading at Avonwood



- 10 Recommended Reads, plus an additional 5.
- DEAR
- First Chapter Friday





# Reading at home

- 5 – 10 minutes
- Choose a time that works for you
- Be positive and celebrate successes
- Encourage them to point to the graphemes
- Encourage them to say the sounds and blend them together
- Be patient and let them try and work it out
- Read common exception words by sight.

# Reading at home

- Continue to read to your child.
- Model how to read a book – left to right, turning pages
- Ask questions about what has happened and characters' feelings
- Support vocabulary
- Predict what will happen next
- Make connections
- Model your love of reading!







Unlocking Letters and Sounds  
Actions, Images and Handwriting – Phase 2

- These are simple, clear actions that don't impede the child saying the sound
- The sound is only voiced once, so that the teacher can spot those children who are saying the sound slightly behind the rest of the group
- The actions also help warm up hands and fingers, ready for writing

GPC	Image	Action	Lower Case Letter Formation	Upper Case Letter Formation
s		Snake – Slithering snake action with arm	Up and over, around the other way	Up and over, around the other way
a		Arrow – Firing an arrow	Around, up, down and flick	Down, down, lift and across
t		Tap – Twisting a tap	Down and round, pencil off, across	Down from the top, lift and left to right across the top
p		Paint – Painting with a paintbrush	Down, up to the top, round to the middle	Down and back up, around to the middle

# Spelling

- Segmenting words



- Daily writing as part of phonics lessons

## Concerns about progress

- All children are different
- Discuss any concerns with teachers
- Teachers will assess your child regularly
- Interventions to support child in the specific skill they are struggling with
- Adaptions for children with SEND



Curriculum

- [Curriculum Introduction](#)
- [Subjects](#)**
- [Reading](#)
- [Art](#)
- [Computing](#)
- [History](#)
- [Science](#)
- [PSHE](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Design Technology](#)
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- [Teaching and Learning](#)
- [Year Groups](#)

Welcome to the Avonwood Curriculum Hub. This is where you will find information about our curriculum including intent, methodology and content. You can view our curriculum either vertically via subjects or horizontally via year groups. At Avonwood Primary School we strongly believe every child has the right to receive a curriculum rich in powerful and carefully sequenced knowledge so that regardless of background, every child can exceed their potential and achieve real social mobility.

 Curriculum Introduction	 Teaching & Learning	 Art
 Computing	 Design & Technology	 French
 Geography	 History	 Mathematics
 RE	 Science	 PSHE
 Reading	 Writing	 Music
 PE		



Phonics at Avonwood Primary School

At Avonwood Primary School, we strive to ensure all pupils are confident and fluent readers by the end of Key Stage One; we believe that reading is the key to success and underpins all learning. Having high expectations and a consistent approach to phonics ensures children are given the best possible foundation for reading, writing and communication and language skills.

This September, we will be transitioning to the use of our new phonics scheme Unlocking Letters and Sounds which was validated by the DfE in December 2021.

Phonics is taught daily in Foundation and Year 1, as well as continuing to revisit it in Year 2. Unlocking Letters and Sound provides high-quality phonics sessions that allow for progression and continuity.

In Foundation, we begin teaching phonics in the first few weeks of Autumn 1. Children make rapid progress in their reading journey. Children begin to learn the main sounds heard in the English Language and how they can be represented, as well as learning Common Exception Words for Phases 2, 3 and 4. They use these sounds to read and write simple words, captions, and sentences. Children leave Reception being able to apply the phonemes taught within Phase 2, 3 and 4.

Unlocking Letters and Sounds Phase 2 Actions: [Link](#)

Unlocking Letters and Sounds Phase 2 Sound Mat: [Link](#)

Unlocking Letters and Sounds Phase 3 Actions: [Link](#)

Unlocking Letters and Sounds Phase 3 Sound Mat: [Link](#)

In Year 1 through Phase 5a, b and c, they learn any alternative spellings and pronunciations for the graphemes and additional Common Exception Words. By the end of Year 1 children will have mastered using phonics to decode and blend when reading and segment when spelling. In Year 1 all children are screened using the national Phonics Screening Check.

Unlocking Letters and Sounds Phase 5 Sound Mat: [Link](#)

In Year 2, phonics continues to be revisited to ensure mastery of the phonetic code and any child who does not meet age related expectations will continue to receive support to close identified gaps.

For further details, please see the Unlocking Letters and Sounds progression.

Unlocking Letters and Sounds Progression Map: [Link](#)

To ensure no child is left behind at any point in the progression, children are regularly assessed and supported to keep up through bespoke 1-1 interventions. These include GPC recognition and blending and segmenting interventions. The lowest attaining 20% of pupils are closely monitored to ensure these interventions have an impact.



## Next steps

- We are always grateful for any help in school with reading. If you would like to become a parent volunteer, please speak to your class teacher.
- Parent phonics workshops will be coming later in the academic year.

Any questions?