

Ellel St. John's Primary School Parents' Phonics Booklet



Ellel St. John's
Church of England
Primary School

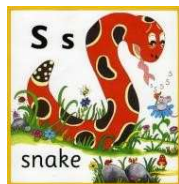
Purpose

The purpose of this booklet is to advise you about what your children will be learning in Phonics at school and how you can help and support them at home.

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching children to read by recognising and blending the sounds that letters, or groups of letters, represent.

Speech sounds are called phonemes and can be made up of one or more letters e.g. 'a,' 'ch' or 'igh'. The letters, or groups of letters which represent phonemes, are called graphemes.



In school, your child will be taught the phonemes and actions for these phonemes using Jolly Phonics. The following website advises how to perform the actions for each sound -

<http://jollylearning.co.uk/2010/11/03/jolly-phonics-actions/>

Phonic teaching is an important part of literacy skills. We aim to teach children to become fluent in reading and give them a secure foundation in spelling.

Phonics and Spelling

When children are learning to write, words are segmented. Segmenting is identifying the individual sounds in a spoken word e.g. 'him' = h-i-m and writing down letters for each sound to form the word.

This is the opposite of reading where blending is required. Blending is recognising the letter sounds in a written word e.g. c-u-p, and merging them in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word cup.



What is phonic teaching?

Phonic teaching involves teaching children the sounds of letters (alongside the letter names) and how these sounds can be blended together to make words. For example, the word 'dog' can be read by sounding out each phoneme and then blending them together. d - o - g → dog

We teach phonics using a progression document called 'Letters and Sounds'. This is organised into six phonic phases which your child progresses through as their reading ability improves. This runs throughout Early Years and Key Stage 1.

- Phase 1 (starting in Preschool) Children learn rhymes, keep rhythms, listen for sounds and start to relate letter sounds to words. For example, b for bag.
- Phase 2 Children learn initial letter sounds and build 3 letter words.
- Phase 3 Children learn all 44 phonemes and blend sounds to read words.
- Phase 4 Children consolidate and apply their learning.
- 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. For example, turned, beautiful, shopping.

How will phonics be taught?

At Ellel St. John's Primary School, your child will have daily 15/20 minute phonic sessions. Each lesson will be planned with the use of visual, auditory and physical movements to help the children learn new phonic skills. Jolly Phonic actions are used to help teach phonics, especially at phase 1, 2 & 3. We aim for phonic teaching to be a fun way of learning to read and spell. Each day a new letter is introduced and your child will bring home a practice sheet. Please use these to consolidate learning and keep at home so that your child can refer to them.

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



How can you help your child?

It is vital that we work in partnership with you, to ensure that your child has the best start possible in their phonics and reading skills.

There are of course lots of words in the English language which cannot be decoded and have to be learned. We call these tricky words and have to be learnt separately. Tricky words are words where individual letter sounds do not create the word e.g. the, was, are.

Your child will be given a copy of the tricky words for the phase they are currently on. This list is for you to aid your child's word recognition skills by reading and spelling the words at home.

We would like you to help your child to use their phonic skills when reading books or when writing at home. Play short, quick, fun activities:

- Look at words all around you. Can your child recognise any of the letters?
- Play games such as 'I Spy' or get your child to teach you some of the phonics games they have played in school.
- Sound talk! For example, can you r-u-n? This supports verbal blending skills.
- Read whenever you can, whether it's a book, a poster, a shop sign or a road sign.

Let your child see you read and then they will see that reading is fun.

Practice makes perfect!

Thank you for your all your help and support with your child's reading.

