



Phonics and Early Reading at Great Wood

At Great Wood, we believe becoming fluent and comprehensive readers is the key to accessing learning across the whole curriculum. Phonics lessons are taught from EYFS, throughout KS1 and conclude when the children are confident, fluent and skillful readers and writers. Children in EYFS and KS1 are also taught to read through their daily English lessons, weekly guided reading lessons and the sharing of class stories and texts.

What is phonics?

- ✓ Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skillfully, and our prime approach to reading and writing at Great Wood.
- ✓ The children are taught how to recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes, identify sounds that different letter combinations make, (such as 'sh, ee, ear') and blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.
- ✓ Children are explicitly taught how to blend sounds together to make words, for example 'b-oa-t becomes boat.
- ✓ To support spelling, children are taught to segment, whereby words are broken up into sounds, for example sheep becomes sh-ee-p.
- ✓ Whenever children meet new words either in reading or writing, they should be taught to use phonic skills and knowledge first to decode or spell the word.

How is phonics taught at Great Wood?

- ✓ At Great Wood phonics sessions are planned so that they are: pacy, positive and purposeful.
- ✓ We are explicit in our teaching and ensure that children practise, practise, practise to develop automaticity and confidence.
- ✓ We teach phonics systematically using the Red Rose Letters and Sounds scheme. This is a systematic, synthetic phonics planning programme using the Letters and Sounds approach. The intent of the scheme is to provide a rigorous and thorough planning programme, in order to strengthen the teaching and learning of phonics and ensure children become enthusiastic and successful readers and writers.
- ✓ At Great Wood, children in KS1 learn phonics for at least 20 minutes daily, alongside others of a similar ability.
- ✓ There are 6 Phases set out in Letters and Sounds, starting in Reception and ending in Year 2. To summarise, Phase 1 begins in Nursery, Phases 2, 3 and 4 are taught in Reception and consolidated in Year 1. Children cover Phase 5 in Year 1 and Phase 6 in Year 2.
- ✓ In cases whereby children are struggling to access the expected phase, rigorous interventions are put in place to help the children make rapid progress

What vocabulary should be used?

Phoneme – sound that the letter/letters make when you say them (in the purest form – NO SCHWAR!) *e.g. t n d s*

Grapheme – letter or letters representing the phonemes (letter names) *e.g. s ai igh*

Digraph – two letters making one *sound e.g. consonant digraphs: sh ng ck vowel digraphs: ee ar oi*

Trigraph – three letters making one sound *e.g. igh tch dge*

Four letter phoneme – *igh /ai/ ough /ow/ ough augh /or/*

Split digraph – when a vowel digraph is split by a consonant *e.g. a-e - make i-e - smile o-e - mole*

Blending is recognising the letter sounds in a written word and then merging them in the order in which they are written, *eg. c-u-p would blend together to make cup.*

Segmenting is identifying the individual sounds in spoken words and writing down letters for each sound to form words. **e.g cup would be broken down in to c-u-p and the children would use a grapheme to represent the sounds**

GPC A grapheme-phoneme correspondence (GPC) is the relationship between a written grapheme and a phoneme (or sound), and vice versa.

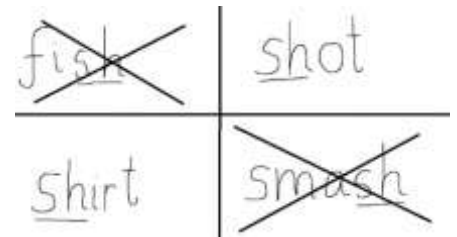
What do our phonics lessons look like at Great Wood?

- ✓ We are fortunate in that all staff that teach phonics have received recent training and are skilled in teaching fun, interactive lessons.
- ✓ We use a range of resources such as flashcards, songs, websites and practical games to make our phonics lessons fun and pacy.
- ✓ Phonics lessons follow a similar structure each day, revisit (recap previous sounds), teach (introduce new sound), practise (opportunities to practise reading and writing words which use the new sound) and apply (use our new sound in sentences).
- ✓ We teach tricky words using games and songs. Tricky words are words that cannot be decoded at the phase the children are working at. Children are taught to find the tricky parts of the words and the aim is to learn the words rather than segmenting e.g. 'said, the, people'.

If you wish to find more information about what is taught in each phase, please see the Phase Overview information saved below. There is also information regarding the Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 parents and some Year 2 parents.

How can parents help at home?

- ✓ Reading every night for at least 10 minutes. The children will bring reading scheme books home each night which will link to their recent phonics learning. It is our expectation that the children read to an adult every night to consolidate their learning.
- ✓ Share books, stories and poems as much as possible, these can be any books or stories that you have at home or online.
- ✓ If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right and then blend the sounds together. You can demonstrate oral blending to your child, for example, 'r-ai-n blends to read rain'.
- ✓ Play lots of speaking and listening games with your child, such as guess the sound, Simon Says, or Eye-Spy.
- ✓ Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not understand what they have read, this will help your child develop their comprehension skills.
- ✓ Speak to your child's teacher for specific advice or if you require new sound/mnemonic mats.
- ✓ You could make games using paper and pencils, such as sound treasure hunts, memory games, bingo, sorting activities or playteachers.



Useful Websites

<https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/> There are lots of free games on here. The games are sorted into phases and available on phones, laptops and tablets. During the Covid-19 outbreak, all games are available for free- instructions on the website. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/#> There are lots of guidance about how to pronounce different sounds and videos which demonstrate correct pronunciation and blending.

<https://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk/free-resources> Here there are many free games. Click Polly's Phonics' for child friendly videos, games and activities.

Search Tricky Words on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaqI5-0d-MM&list=PLlhLRwvEimbCmlsD-JXwS2PqC0LwIVTu&index=5>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2dx65u59aw><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ri4u0TjAZ38>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NOzgR1ANc4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvMyssfAUx0&list=PLlhLRwvEimbCmlsD-JXwS2PqC0LwIVTu>

EYFS and KS1 Reading Scheme

In Reception, children begin reading books from our reading scheme. We have a variety of authors and publishers in our reading scheme to give children a wide and varied diet of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books. Books are organised into phases to match the phase that the child is working on in their phonics lessons. The pace that children move through the reading scheme depends on each individual. The class teachers are regularly assessing phonics and reading to ensure that the children are reading within the correct book band. The children continue reading books within the reading scheme until they are ready to move onto Rainbow Readers, usually in KS2.

Listening to our readers

Practicing reading helps to develop the children's automaticity and confidence. We check the children's reading records daily to view comments from parents about their child's reading. At Great Wood, EYFS and KS1 children are heard read:

- ✓ By a member of school staff or teaching assistants weekly.
- ✓ By their class teacher fortnightly.
- ✓ By volunteers and reading champions as much as possible.
- ✓ By parents, family members or friends every night.

If you have any questions about the teaching of phonics and early reading at Great Wood, please see your child's class teacher or contact Mrs Newton (English Lead) at a.newton@greatwood.lancs.sch.uk or Mrs Lee (Phonics and KS1 English Support) h.lee@greatwood.lancs.sch.uk