

# Phonics and reading workshop 2023-24



# What is phonics?



- ▶ Phonics is a strategy used for teaching children to read and write (spell) words.
- ▶ We follow the Song of Sounds programme.
- ▶ It begins with a series of listening games, getting children to 'tune in' to sounds before teaching them about the sounds that letters make, and then moving on to letter patterns, high frequency words and sentence building.
- ▶ It is a 15-20 minute daily lesson. Little and often is the key.

# How do we say the sounds?

- ▶ Pure sounds.
- ▶ We don't add a 'uh' onto the end. E.g. muh, duh, puh, cuh, tuh....
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48uf9I6P2xQ>



# What will we begin with?

Introducing the letters and sounds of the alphabet

- We will learn 4 sounds per week, e.g.
  - s, a , t , p,
  - i, n, m, d,
  - o, c, k, ck, etc
- On Fridays we consolidate with lots of activities.
- We will be using the song and actions when learning each sound.
- We will be sounding out simple words to read and to write – e.g. cup, hat, sun etc.
- We will be reading high frequency words and ‘spikey’ words – and, on, not, get, got, I, to, no etc.
- Reading captions and simple sentences.

# Segmenting and blending sounds. What do we mean?!

- ▶ **Segmenting sounds to write (spell) words:**

Children will be learning how to hear and say the individual sounds within words.

E.g. hat becomes h-a-t

- ▶ **Blending sounds to read words:**

To read unfamiliar words, children will learn to merge the individual sounds together to pronounce a word.

E.g. c-a-t becomes cat

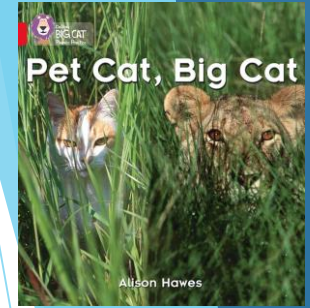
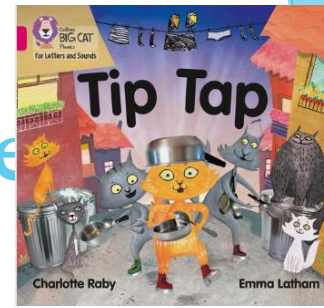
# Sounds to go home

- ▶ Once we begin our daily phonics lessons your child will begin to bring home letter sounds, high frequency words (rainbow words) and handwriting sheets.
- ▶ Each week we will add the new sounds we have covered. This is for you to practice with your child at home. You can practice writing the letters, pronouncing the sound with the action, think of words which have the sounds in them, play I spy with the sounds.
- ▶ Please keep the sounds in your child's book bag as we will need to add to it each week with new sounds.

# Reading



# The school's reading scheme



- ▶ The school's main scheme is Big Cat phonics. The books are organised into sets according to the sounds your child has been learning. We will be continually assessing the children to make sure their reading book matches their ability.
- ▶ Many of the books contain helpful information with suggestions of questions to ask your child to aid comprehension.



# Reading Record Book



- ▶ Listen to your child read and please record any comments and feedback in the reading record as this will let us know your child has read at home.
- ▶ We will change the children's books twice a week – we will only change the books if you have signed the diary to say you have read at home.
- ▶ At the end of each sentence model reading the sentence aloud to your child and encourage them to repeat the whole sentence back to encourage fluency.

## How often?

- ▶ Try to read a little together every day at home.
- ▶ At school your child will read once a week to the class teacher or another adult. Initially this is on a 1:1 basis, and as the year progresses it will be in a small guided group.
- ▶ Sometimes your child will bring home a library book to share with you at home.

## What to expect

- ▶ When your child is familiar with reading routines and learning their letter sounds we will send home books with only a few words.
- ▶ High frequency words (rainbow words) will be attached to your child's reading record. These words are to be learnt by sight. They will be 'tested' each week and changed for a new set of words once they know them.
- ▶ Home phonics folder to be added to each week.



## Reading at home

- ▶ You are probably helping your child with reading much more than you may realise. If your home contains books, magazines and catalogues and your child sees you reading, if you read to your child and talk together about familiar stories, then your child already has a head start in this area.
- ▶ Remember that talking about reading is very important, so if your child is sometimes reluctant to read aloud, discussing a book will also help to develop reading skills.
- ▶ Keep reading time relaxed, comfortable and pleasurable, in a quiet corner, with the television turned off.
- ▶ Talk about the cover and read the title before rushing your child into the text, asking questions, such as: what do you think it will be about; what sort of book is it; have you read one like this before?
- ▶ Look through the book, noticing interesting pictures and words, then read the opening together.
- ▶ Don't correct too quickly. If your child makes an error suggest having another go, searching the pictures for a clue, sounding out the first letter or reading on before you 'tell' the problem word.
- ▶ If your child is really struggling, take over the reading yourself before it becomes an 'issue'.

## Some useful websites...

- ▶ <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>
- ▶ <http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>
- ▶ <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

(initial sound game)

- ▶ [http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics\\_games.html](http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html)

(a huge selection of games)

- ▶ <http://www.bigbrownbear.co.uk/>
- ▶ <http://games.e4education.co.uk/groupone/>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=song+of+sounds&&view=detail&mid=FE3C39BB05DD0AF9E8A5&&FORM=VRDGAR>

Link to the song of sounds song and video

Any questions?

