

Little Waltham Primary School Phonics Teaching

At Little Waltham Primary School phonics is taught using the DFES Letters and Sounds programme. Children in EYFS and Key Stage One take part in daily phonics sessions which last for twenty minutes. The children are grouped according to which phase they are working in so that they can develop their reading and writing skills. Phonics consists of hearing sounds, recognising sounds, blending sounds for reading and segmenting sounds for spelling. It is the building blocks of reading and writing. Phonics consists of different phases:

Phase 1

Throughout Nursery / Pre-School

Activities are divided into 7 aspects - environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and oral blending and segmenting.

Phase 2

Reception (up to 6 weeks)

Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each. Blending sounds together to make words. Segmenting words into their separate sounds. Beginning to read simple captions.

Phase 3

Reception (up to 12 weeks)

The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Graphemes such as ch, oo, th representing the remaining phonemes not covered by single letters. Reading captions, sentences and questions. On completion of this phase, children will have learnt the 'simple code', i.e. one grapheme for each phoneme.

Phase 4

Reception (up to 6 weeks)

No new grapheme correspondence. Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants e.g swim, clap, jump.

Phase 5

Throughout Year 1

Introducing the 'complex code'. Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know plus alternative pronunciations of the graphemes they already know.

Phase 6

Applying phonic skills to spell more complex words. Learning to spell long words and suffixes. Learning about past tense.

Important Definitions

Grapheme

A grapheme is what you see. These are the letters which represent the phoneme.

Phoneme

A phoneme is what you hear. It is the smallest unit of sound. There are 44 sounds in total.

Blending

Recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example, c-u-p and blending them in the order in which they are on paper to pronounce the word cup.

Segmenting

Breaking up the word to spell it out. It is the opposite of blending
Identifying the individual sounds in a spoken word (e.g. h-i-m, s-t-or-k) and writing down letters for each sound (phoneme) to form the word.

Tricky Words

Words that are not phonetically decodable e.g. was, I, the and one.
Some are tricky to start with but will become decodable once more phonemes are learned. e.g. out, there

Supporting Your Child / Phonic Activities to play at Home

- Play I Spy
- Sing an alphabet song together
- Use magnetic letters to make or spell words
- Make a list of rhyming words - cat, pat, fat, mat, rat, sat, bat,
- Play pairs with a set of tricky words
- Practise blending vc and cvc words together a-m - am, m-e-t - met.
- Play hide the tricky words
- Have a word of the week stuck on the fridge door
- Play musical sounds
- Use different voices to say sounds, loud, whisper, squeaky, grumpy.

Useful Websites

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.ictgames.com

Mr Thorne does phonics - You Tube

