

Parents' Workshop

✧ Read Write Inc. Phonics

... where reading starts in Early Years and KS1!



# Parents' workshop



With high attendance, we held our first parents' workshop during the last week of Term 1, inviting Early Years' and KS1 parents to get to know the Phonics scheme we are using at school and to practise having a Phonics lesson themselves! Thank you all for your participation and excitement!

## But, what is Phonics?


Phonics is a method of teaching children to read.

Phonics works by breaking words down into its individual sounds. There are **44 different sounds** in the English language. Learning to read with Phonics is therefore a bit like learning a code, after learning just a few sounds, you will be able to use this code to read hundreds of words. The more sounds you know, the more words you will be able to work out how to read.

Not all words are phonetically decode-able however, a select few words you need to learn through the 'sight words' method of learning to read. Sight words is when you learn to read by memorising words individually – these are also known as 'red' words.







Each one of the 26 letters in the alphabet has its own 'sound'. This is very different to how a letter is 'said' in the alphabet. For example: /a/ in arrow or /b/ in bat.



### Of course Phonics is not that simple!


There are more than 26 sounds in English language, in fact there are 44 sounds in total! Some of these sounds are made up of 2 or 3 letters. 2 letter sounds are called digraphs (e.g. scout) and three letter sounds are called trigraphs. (e.g. earth).



### It gets a bit more complicated than that, too!

For example the 'n' sound, like in 'nail' is also spelt 'kn' like in 'knot' or 'gn' like in 'gnome'.

Although this may sound too complicated for parents, children love the scheme and progress significantly every term! Students are grouped based on a termly assessment which is taking place early in the term and therefore our groups are carefully created and monitored in order to ensure that students' needs are carefully addressed.





# Resources



Students start their Phonics lessons by being introduced to the sound cards; each card represents a sound and 4-5 words are linked to this sound. There is always a phrase which is related to the sound and helps students memorize the sound and the letter formation. They then access a variety of story books which are organised in 6 levels. Students also use the 'Get Writing' books for written, consolidation activities.

Students also receive appropriate books to read at home.





# What can parents do?

1. Choose books that your child is genuinely interested in.
2. Pick a quiet and appropriate time to read.
3. Talk about the story.
4. Identify tricky words first before you start reading.
5. Give them time to decode the words.
6. Use 'Fred-talk' regularly.



## Fred Talk

- Say the word in sounds as Fred e.g. c-a-t.
- Ask your child to repeat.
- Can they 'jump-in' with the whole word?
- Say the word in sounds followed by the whole word e.g. c-a-t, cat
- Ask your child to repeat

## Examples

Shall we have some l-u-n-ch.?

What would you like to p-l-ay?

Let's put on your c-oa-t.

Thank you!

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