



# Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Monday 27th November 2023













































# Why do we teach phonics?

- ▶ The ability to read and write well is a vital skill for all children, paving the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience.
- ▶ Phonics helps children to develop good reading and spelling skills
- ▶ We use a synthetic scheme called '**Essential Letters and Sounds, ELS**' as our teaching resource.



# What is Synthetic Phonics?

- ▶ The children have a 30 minute daily phonics lesson.
- ▶ Children are taught to read by breaking down a unit of sounds in written format (a letter or letters that spell a sound in a word-graphemes) into separate sounds (phonemes).
- ▶ The phoneme is the sound and the grapheme is the written format.
- ▶ They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to hear and read the whole word.
- ▶ There are around 40 different sounds...

a 	o 	x 	t 	e 	p 	r 	i 	n 	m 	h 	b 	d 	g 
s ss 	c k ck 	q qu 	u oo 	j 	y 	ch 	sh 	th 	w wh 				
v 	f ff ph 	ow ou 	l ll 	oa ow oe o e 	oo ue ew u e 	ar 							
ng 	z zz 	ai ay a e 	ear 	igh ie i e 	ee e e ea 	air 							
ure 	oi oy 	or aw au 	er ur ir 	I no go the to into he she we me be was									
you	they	all	are	my	her	said	have	like	so	do	come	some	
			were	there	little	one	when	out	what				



# Phonics Consists of:

- ▶ Identifying sounds in spoken words
- ▶ Recognising the common spellings of each **sound**
- ▶ Blending **sounds** into words for reading
- ▶ Segmenting words into **sounds** for spelling

# Some Definitions

## A Phoneme

This is the smallest unit of sound in a word.



How many phonemes can you hear in **cat**?

## A grapheme



These are the letters that represent the phoneme.

Children need to practise recognising the grapheme and saying the phoneme that it represents.

A phoneme you hear



A grapheme you see



A word always has the same number of  
phonemes and graphemes!





# How to say the sounds

- Saying the sounds correctly with your child is extremely important
- The way we say sounds may well be different from when you were at school
- We say the shortest form of the sounds
- There is a helpful video showing all phonemes on the Year 1 area of the Beaver Road website.
- Oxford Owl
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>



# BLENDING

- ▶ Recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example

c-u-p

and merging or 'blending' them in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word 'cup'



# SEGMENTING

- ▶ 'Chopping up' the word to spell it out
- ▶ 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 him and stork.



# Segment and Blend these words...

- ▶ drep
- ▶ blom
- ▶ gris

Nonsense games like this help to build up skills - and are fun!



# Segmenting Activity

- ▶ Using 'sound buttons' can you say how many phonemes are in each word.
  - ▶ shelf
  - ▶ dress
  - ▶ sprint
  - ▶ string



# Did you get it right?

- ▶ shelf = 

sh	e	l	f
<div></div>	○	○	○

 = 4 phonemes
- ▶ dress = 

d	r	e	ss
○	○	○	<div></div>

 = 4 phonemes
- ▶ sprint = 

s	p	r	i	n	t
○	○	○	○	○	○

 = 6 phonemes
- ▶ string = 

s	t	r	i	ng
○	○	○	○	<div></div>

 = 5 phonemes



# Why Year 1?

- ▶ Every Year 1 child in the country will be taking the statutory phonics screening check in June.
- ▶ The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons.
- ▶ The focus of the check is to ensure that all children can read by the end of Year 2. The Year 1 screening (mid point) will provide evidence to help teachers plan for Year 2.
- ▶ **It is not a reading test!**



# What will the children do?

- ▶ The check will take 5 to 10 minutes to complete
- ▶ We will make it as low-key as possible - the children will not be informed it's a "test"
- ▶ They will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together out loud; e.g. d-o-g - dog
- ▶ The check will consist of 20 words and 20 non-words (pseudo-words);
- ▶ Children will be told if the word is a real or 'alien' word, with a corresponding alien image.



# Examples of words

in

ot



at

vap



beg

osk



sum

ect





# How will it be administered?

- ▶ Your child's teacher will conduct all of the screening checks with the children.
- ▶ The children will complete the check one-to-one in a quiet area of the school.
- ▶ We are not permitted to indicate to the children at the time whether they have correctly sounded out and / or blended the word.

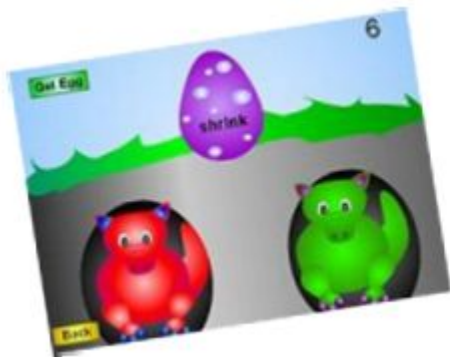


# How can you help?

- ▶ REMEMBER: Phonics is not the only way you become a good reader.
- ▶ Continue to read with your child each night and encourage them to:
- ▶ Sound out the words and blend the sounds together, this is particularly important with the decodable book that your child brings home.
- ▶ Re-read to check it makes sense, and use pictures for clues.
- ▶ Ask questions about the book.
- ▶ And most importantly - ENJOY READING!

# How can you help?

- ▶ Children can practise their phonics by playing games online. They can choose phase 3, 4, or 5.
- ▶ [Phonics play](#)



- ▶ Look out for activities we send home and on the website.

**phoneme** — the smallest single identifiable sound, e.g. the letters 'sh' represent just one sound, but 'sp' represents two (/s/ and /p/)

**digraph** — two letters making one sound, e.g. sh, ch, th, ph.

**trigraph** — is a group of three letters used to represent a single sound, e.g. igh, str

**vowel digraphs** comprise of two vowels which, together, make one sound, e.g. ai, oo, ow

**split digraph** — two letters, split, making one sound, e.g. a-e as in make or i-e in site

**grapheme** — a letter or a group of letters representing one sound, e.g. sh, ch, igh,

**grapheme-phoneme correspondence (GPC)** — the relationship between sounds and the letters which represent those sounds; also known as 'letter-sound correspondences'

**segmenting** (vb) — to split up a word into its individual phonemes in order to spell it, e.g. the word 'cat' has three phonemes: /c/, /a/, /t/

**blending** (vb) — to draw individual sounds together to pronounce a word, e.g. s-n-a-p, blended together, reads snap