

# Understanding Phonics



# Overview

- So what has changed? Letters and Sounds
- Pure sounds
- Phonics for reading - blending
- Phonics for spelling – segmenting
- The teaching of phonics at Grove Road – carousel of activities according to Phase
- The role of phonics in becoming a successful reader.

# Glossary of Terms

- **Adjacent consonants** Two (or three) letters making two (or three) sounds. E.g. the first three letters of *strap* are adjacent consonants. Previously known as a *consonant cluster*.
- **Blending** The process of using phonics for reading. Children identify and synthesise/blend the phonemes in order to make a word. E.g. *s-n-a-p*, blended together, reads *snap*.
- **Consonant digraph** Two consonants which make one sound. E.g. *sh, ch, th, ph*
- **CVC, CCVCC** etc. The abbreviations used for consonant-vowel-consonant and consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant-consonant words, used to describe the order of sounds. E.g. *cat, ship* and *sheep* are all CVC words. *Black* and *prize* could be described as CCVC words.
- **Digraph** Two letters which together make one sound. There are different types of digraph – vowel, consonant and split.
- **Grapheme** A letter or group of letters representing one sound (phoneme) E.g. *ck, igh, t, sh*
- **Phoneme** The smallest unit of sound in a word.
- **Segmenting** The process of using phonics for writing. Children listen to the whole word and break it down into the constituent phonemes, choosing an appropriate grapheme to represent each phoneme. E.g. *ship* can be segmented as *sh-i-p*.
- **Split digraph** Two letters, which work as a pair to make one sound, but are separated within the word. E.g. *a-e* as in *make* or *late*; *i-e* as in *size* or *write*.
- **Trigraph** Three letters which together make one sound. E.g. *dge, igh*
- **Vowel digraph** A digraph in which at least one of the letters is a vowel E.g. *ea, ay, ai, ar*

# Letters and Sounds

- **Phase One** of Letters and Sounds concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2.
- In **Phase 2**, letters and their sounds are introduced one at a time. A set of letters is taught each week, in the following sequence:
  - **Set 1:** s, a, t, p
  - **Set 2:** i, n, m, d
  - **Set 3:** g, o, c, k
  - **Set 4:** ck, e, u, r
  - **Set 5:** h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

- By the time they reach **Phase 3**, children will already be able to blend and segment words containing the 19 letters taught in Phase 2.
- 25 new graphemes are introduced (one at a time).
- **Set 6:** j, v, w, x
- **Set 7:** y, z, zz, qu
- **Consonant digraphs:** ch, sh, th, ng
- **Vowel digraphs:** ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er
- **Tricky words** (red words) are also introduced. These are words that are phonetically tricky to decode such as **said** and **come**.

- In **Phase 4**, no new graphemes are introduced. The main aim of this phase is to consolidate the children's knowledge and to help them learn to read and spell words which have adjacent consonants, such as trap, string and milk.
- In **Phase 5**, children will learn more graphemes and phonemes. For example, they already know **ai** as in **rain**, but now they will be introduced to **ay** as in **day** and **a-e** as in **make**.
- Alternative pronunciations for graphemes will also be introduced, e.g. ea in tea, head and break.

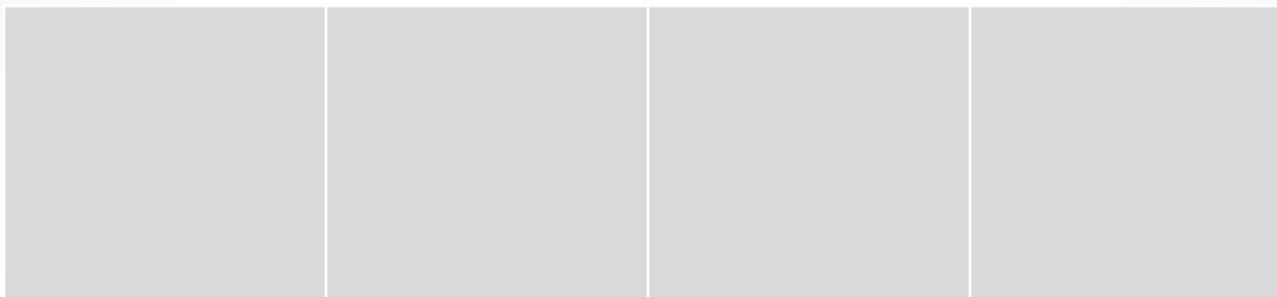
- At the start of **Phase 6** of Letters and Sounds, children will have already learnt the most frequently occurring grapheme–phoneme correspondences (GPCs) in the English language.
- *They will be able to read many familiar words automatically.*
- *When they come across unfamiliar words they will in many cases be able to decode them quickly and quietly using their well-developed sounding and blending skills.*
- *With more complex unfamiliar words they will often be able to decode them by sounding them out.*
- *They will learn to add prefixes and suffixes in spelling.*



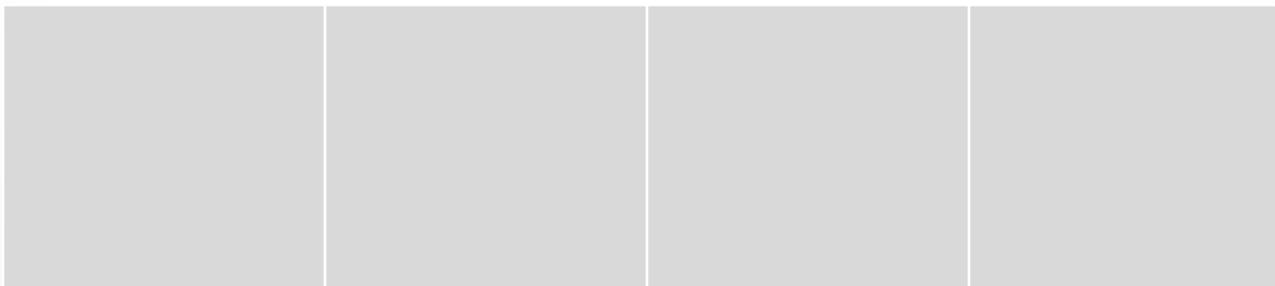
# Pure Phonics

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE>

- **Phonics for reading**    blending



- **Phonics for spelling**    segmenting



# Phonics at Grove Road



