



Brinkworth Earl Danby's

PHONICS AND EARLY READING



What is Phonics?

Phonics is the ability to convert a letter or a letter group into sounds that are then blended together into a word.

There are 44 phonemes the children need to learn along with the 26 letter names.

Some definitions and words we use when teaching phonics:

- A Phoneme (you hear) – this is the smallest unit of sound in a word eg. cat has 3 phonemes
- A Grapheme (you see) – these are the letters that represent the phoneme
- Blending – involves recognising the letter sounds (phonemes) in a written word eg. c-u-p and blending them together to pronounce the word 'cup'
- Segmenting – involves chopping up the word to spell it out by identifying the individual sounds (phonemes) in a spoken word eg. p-a-n



Phonics

Phonics helps children to develop good reading and spelling skills.

Every child in Foundation Stage (FS) and Key Stage 1 (KS1) has a daily phonics lesson.

Phonics lessons last for 15 minutes and have a fast paced approach.

Lessons include a range of activities such as reading, writing, games and rhymes.

Part of the Phonic teaching involves reading and learning 'tricky words'. These are words that cannot be sounded out and have unusual spellings so the children need to remember these words.

There are 6 phonic phases that the children work through during FS and KS1. Each phase builds on the skills and knowledge that has been learnt from the previous phase.

At Brinkworth Earl Danby's, we follow the 'Letters and Sounds' programme through our LCP scheme.



What are the 6 Phases?

Phase 1: Gets the children ready for phonics by:- tuning into sounds from the environment and instruments; listening and remembering sounds; talking about sounds eg. rhyme, rhythm.

Phase 2: Teaches the first 19 phonemes and how to use them to read and write simple words. Some phonemes will be represented by a single letter others by digraphs (2 letters eg. ss). The children will blend and segment the phonemes to make CVC and VC words eg. cat , in

Phase 3: Involves learning a further 26 phonemes (long vowel phonemes) eg. ur, ight, oo, ure. The children practise blending and segmenting a wider set of words eg. fizz, sheep and light.

Phase 4: Practising previously learnt graphemes and phonemes along with learning how to write CVCC words eg. tent, toast, chimp. Consonant clusters are also introduced eg. ch, sp, gr.

Phase 5: New graphemes are learnt as well as split digraphs eg. i_e in nice and u_e in cube.

Phase 6: Focuses on spelling and learning rules for phonic alternatives eg. i, igh, ie.



How you can help with phonics at home

- Sing an alphabet song
- Play 'I spy'
- Have a sound hunt
- Play sound bingo
- Use bath crayons
- Use whiteboards to practise writing words
- Play with magnetic letters – when you have blended a word together, mix it up, say the word and ask your child to put the sounds back in the same order
- Play online phonic games
- Snap with word cards
- Make up silly sentences
- Play spelling games
- Look at and practise reading 'tricky trucks'
- Praise your child for trying out words.
- Practise the sounds being learnt at school by using the phonic sound mats that have been sent home
- Have fun with words!



Early Reading

At Brinkworth Earl Danby's, all FS children start with books without any text. This is to encourage them to use picture clues to tell the story, help them to develop their language and imaginations.

They then move onto books with simple words which can be phonetically decodable eg. they can segment and blend the words. The phonemes in the books will link to the phonic phases the children have been taught in class.

The children then progress up the different colour book bands using their segmenting and blending skills to read more challenging words and will start to read with more fluency.

We have a variety of fiction and nonfiction books which the children will read both in school and at home.

It is important for children to understand and talk about what they have read. This can be done by asking them questions about the book, getting them to retell the story and even find fun facts from the information they have read.

At Brinkworth Earl Danby's, we want all children to develop that LOVE for reading!



When you take books home...

- Find a time and place where your child feels relaxed and comfortable.
- Turn the Ipad/laptop/TV/radio off.
- Encourage your child to be independent and get their own school reading books or choose a book to read.
- Reread the same book – the children will become familiar with the language.
- Keep each reading session short and fun!
- Read a little every day.
- Vary the reading activities that you do together.
- Give lots of praise!



Reading at home

Reading aloud to children is the best way to get them interested in reading.

How you can get the most out of reading to your child:

- Read with drama and excitement – use different voices for the different characters in the story
- Re-read your child's favourite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them
- Read stories that have repetitive parts and encourage your child to join in
- Point to words as you read them, this will help your child make the connection between words they hear and words on a page
- Read all kinds of material – stories, poems, information books, comics
- Look at digital texts eg. Big Cat Collins the web address can be found on the class web page
- Read a bedtime story
- Read 'Supporting Children by Reading at Home' document which can be found on the school website under the class tab



The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.

Dr. Seuss

