

Phonics at Longmeadow

The scheme we use to teach synthetic phonics at Longmeadow is based on the *Letters and Sounds Scheme* developed by the Department for Education in 2005. We supplement this with materials from the National Curriculum and Herts for Learning including their Supersonic Phonics Program. It provides a structured and systematic approach to teaching Early Reading and Writing. The Letters and Sounds program is separated into six Phases - your child's teacher will be able to tell you which Phase your child is currently working on.

All staff who deliver our phonics program receive comprehensive training to ensure consistent practice across our school.

At the end of Year 1, your child will sit a National Phonics Screening Check. We provide them systematic teaching of phonics to ensure they are ready. We also provide home workshops to help you to help them at home. Look out for these to be advertised. Details of the check are available as a link below.

Phonics Glossary:

We hope the following glossary is useful to you when using our Phonics pages. Always feel free to come in and talk to us if you require any further support.

Letters	Are the names of letters
Sounds	Are the sounds they make when you sound them out
Digraph	A digraph is a sound that is represented by two letters e.g. the sound 'a' in rain is represented by the digraph 'ai'
Split digraph	A split digraph is a digraph that is separated by other letters e.g. the sound 'a' in the word take is represented by the split digraph a-e
Phoneme	A phoneme is a unit of sound e.g. the word 'cat' contains three phonemes; c - a - t. The word rain also contains 3 phoneme r-ai-n
Grapheme	A grapheme is a visual / written representation of a sound e.g. a letter or a group of letters. Some sounds are represented by a single letter whilst others are represented by more than one letter
Blending	Blending is the skill of joining sounds together to read words. Children are taught to say the separate sounds in a word and to then blend them together to decode the word. We use sound buttons to support children to identify the sounds before reading. Single phonemes are represented with a . Digraphs with a _ and split digraphs with a (that looks a bit like a smile) to join the split letters together (broke)

Segmenting	Segmenting is the opposite of blending. Children are taught to segment a word into its separate sounds in order to spell it. We teach children to say the word, stretch the word (saying the word slowly to hear the sounds more clearly), segment the word, using their robot arms to chop each sound.

We have created our own Phonics Curriculum Map to support the systematic teaching of Phonics. It can be found on our school website.

Here are some links to useful resources which will help you in supporting your child at home. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's Class Teacher.

Parent Link to Letters and Sounds Pack:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letters-and-sounds>

Further information and games for Letters and Sounds:

<https://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

Further games and information:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ParentsMenu.htm>

Department for Education – Phonics information for Parents:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/194057/phonics_check_leaflet_2013_.pdf

Parent Information Phonic Screening Check:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-2019-materials>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=phonics+screening+check+video&docid=608015825019865407&mid=95C1605F23A13E78531495C1605F23A13E785314&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>