



How We Teach Reading in KS1

Reading in Key Stage 1

Successful reading demands both word level reading and the ability to comprehend what has been read. We teach both skills and adopt an approach known as synthetic phonics.

Synthetic phonics

Synthetic phonics is the teaching of reading in which the phonemes [sounds] associated with particular graphemes [letters] are pronounced in isolation and blended together (synthesised). For example, children are taught to take a single-syllable word such as *cat* apart into its three letters, pronounce a phoneme for each letter in turn /c, a, t/, and blend the phonemes together to form a word. Synthetic phonics for writing reverses the sequence: children are taught to say the word they wish to write, segment it into its phonemes and say them in turn, for example /d, o, g/, and write a grapheme for each phoneme in turn to produce the written word, *dog*.

Phonic terminology definitions:

Phoneme - A *phoneme* is the smallest unit of sound in a word

Grapheme - Letter(s) representing a phoneme, for example:

t ai igh

Digraph - Two letters, which make one sound

A consonant digraph contains two consonants

sh ck th ll

A vowel digraph contains at least one vowel

ai ee ar oy

Trigraph - Three letters, which make one sound
dge

igh

Split digraph - A digraph in which the two letters are not adjacent (e.g. **make**)

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

c-u-p, and merging or synthesising them in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word '**cup**'

Segmenting - Identifying the individual sounds in a spoken word (e.g. **h-i-m**) and writing down or manipulating letters for each sound to form the word '**him**'

How can you help?

The most important thing you can do, to support your child with their reading, is to read with them. Listening to your child read is important but reading to them is just as

important. If they hear you read, they are hearing how to pronounce unfamiliar words and are developing new vocabulary.

When you listen to your child read allow them time to attempt to decode unfamiliar words themselves, before stepping in to help them. If you find your child is struggling to decode a word, you can help by pointing out the sounds (not the letters) in a word. For example, the word 'keep' would be 'k-ee-p' and 'light' would be 'l-igh-t'.

When you listen to your child read, pick out a word from the book and ask them to say what the graphemes (letter) are making a certain phoneme (sound). For example, the 'ee' sound (phoneme) in 'reaching' is represented by the letters (grapheme) 'ea'.

When you are out and about, ask your child to read what road traffic or shop signs say. Allow your child time to decode the words before stepping in to help.

Practise speed reading (reading as quickly as possible) the graphemes your child is learning in school. These can be found in your child's reading journal.

Keep reading activities short. It is much better to read little and often, than to read a lot infrequently.

Stop before your child becomes bored or restless.

Useful Links

Alphablocks guide to phonics:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/the-alphablocks-guide-to-phonics>

It is important that children pronounce the sound correctly when they are reading. This video provides a useful guide for how each sound is pronounced.

<http://jollylearning.co.uk/gallery/audio-2/>

If you access to the internet, there are many free phonics games the children can play.

- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/index.htm>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>
- http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html

Other ways we teach reading:

At Woodfield, your child will experience reading through a variety of ways:

- A novel study approach, where each child will have a copy of the text to share or view. This text helps support your child's learning of writing
- Daily phonics sessions
- 1:1 reading
- Visiting our library.

In school, we use VIPERS to help us learn about all areas of reading. Here's what VIPERS stands for:

