

Phonics at Blackheath Primary School



Did You Know...?

The English language has:

26 letters



44 sounds

**over 100 ways to spell those
sounds**



It is one of the most complex languages to learn to read and spell.



What Is Phonics?

Phonics is a method for teaching reading and writing.

It develops phonemic awareness which is the ability to hear, recognise and use the sounds within words.

Learners are also taught the correspondence between sounds and the graphemes (spelling patterns) that represent them.

Phonics is currently the main way in which children in British primary schools are taught to read in their earliest years following the Rose Review Report in 2009.

Children will also be taught other skills, such as whole-word recognition (tricky words), book skills and a love and enjoyment of reading.



Key Language

phonics (also known as 'synthetic phonics') - The teaching of reading by developing awareness of the sounds in words and the corresponding letters used to represent those sounds.

phoneme - Any one of the 44 sounds which make up words in the English language.

grapheme - How a phoneme is written down. There can be more than one way to spell a phoneme. For example, the phoneme 'ay' is spelt differently in each of the words 'w**ay**', 'm**a**k**e**', 'f**a**il', 'gr**ea**t', 'sl**ei**gh' and 'l**a**dy'.

blending - Putting together the sounds in a word in order to read it, e.g. 'f - r - o - g, frog'

segmenting - Breaking a word into sounds in order to spell them, e.g. 'frog, f - r - o - g'














Letters and Sounds and Monster Phonics

Letters and Sounds is the order of progression we use at Blackheath Primary School. This is a resource for the teaching of phonics which was issued by the Department for Education in 2007.

We supplement Letters and Sounds with Monster Phonics. The colour-coded grapheme system is unique to Monster Phonics; each coloured grapheme is paired with a monster character that makes the same sound to give audio-visual prompts that help children 'see' each sound within a word and pronounce it correctly.

There is further guidance regarding how we teach phonics on our school website at <https://www.blackheathprimary.org.uk/>

A a a-e ay ai ei eigh ea ey 	E e y ee ea ie ey ei e-e i-e 	I i i-e y igh ie y-e 	O o o-e oa ow oe ou 	U u u-e ew ue eu 
oo u o u-e oo ew ue ou ui o-e eu 	ow ow ou e o u t a g i l n m s p 	silent ea ve wh tch wr kn gn mb wh ore 	tricky ar er ir w-or (er) oo o (u) oy oi air ear aw au ear ure 	g dge (j) c (s) le el al il (ul) al (or) ti (sh) w-a (o) w-ar (or) s(zsh) 
a b bb c ck k d e f ff ph 	g h i y j l ll m mm 	n nn o p pp qu r rr s ss t tt 	u v w x z zz ng 	nk ch sh st th th or ur 



Phase One - Nursery

Phase 1 has seven aspects, with a focus on listening skills.

- 1: **Environmental sounds**- sounds we hear around us every day; listening to and imitating sounds; how to be a good listener.
- 2: **Instrumental sounds**- listening to and discriminating the sounds made by different instruments.
- 3: **Body percussion**- – using the body to create sounds and follow a song, rhyme or beat.
- 4: **Rhythm and rhyme**- recognising rhythms and rhymes in songs, speech and nursery rhymes.
- 5: **Alliteration**- to develop awareness of alliteration.
- 6: **Voice sounds**- to distinguish between the differences in vocal sounds, including oral blending and segmenting.
- 7: **Oral blending and segmenting** -to develop oral blending (putting sounds together to make a word) and segmenting (breaking up sounds in a word).



Phase Two - Reception

In Phase 2, children begin to learn some letter sounds and to match them to graphemes.

Most of the first sounds are single-letter sounds but there are also several digraphs (where one sound is represented by two letters), e.g. 'ck', 'll', 'ss'.

Children also begin to blend the sounds to make words. By the end of Phase 2, children will be able to read some 'vowel-consonant' (vc) and 'consonant-vowel-consonant' (cvc) words, e.g. up, in, cat, pin.

Children will also learn to read the 'tricky' words **the, to, go, I, no**, which cannot be read phonetically.



Phase Three - Reception

Phase 3 usually lasts around 12 weeks. Children are taught another 25 graphemes.

The final single-letter sounds are taught, together with more consonant digraphs (e.g. zz, qu) and several vowel digraphs (e.g. ai, ee, igh).

Children also continue to learn how to blend and segment CVC words using the new sounds, e.g. tail, sheet, night - note that these words still only have three sounds.

Children will then move on to blending and segmenting two-syllable words such as cooker, eating, broken.

Tricky words also continue to be taught.



Phase Four - Reception

By Phase 4, children are able to represent each of 42 phonemes with a grapheme. Children will be able to read CVC words and begin to segment them to spell them.

Phase 4 is consolidation of children's knowledge. Children also move on to blending and segmenting using adjacent consonants, e.g. st, sp, tr, br, spr, str in words such as string, blow, train.

Phonics teaching continues to be regular and structured and children play games to consolidate their learning.



Phase Five - Year One

Children will broaden their knowledge of graphemes and phonemes.

They will learn alternative ways of spelling the phonemes they have already learnt.

They will learn strategies to help them choose the correct grapheme for spelling.

Children will be reading with more and more fluency, no longer needing to 'sound out' most familiar words.

Phase 5 is a programme for the whole of year One.



Phase Six and Beyond

Phase 6 is mainly taught as children progress through year 2 (age 6-7).

Children are becoming fluent readers and more accurate spellers. They learn more spelling patterns such as the use of prefixes and suffixes, contracted forms of words (e.g. can't, won't) and other words in common usage such as days of the week.

At this stage, children can read hundreds of words automatically. They are now reading for pleasure and reading to learn rather than learning to read.

They can decode words quickly and silently and only need to sound out longer or more unfamiliar words.



Statutory Phonics Check

In June, all year 1 children are expected to complete the year 1 phonics screening check. In 2021 the phonics screening check will take place the week beginning Monday 7th June 2021.

The aim is to check that a child is making progress in phonics. They are expected to read a mixture of real words and 'nonsense' words containing sounds from Phases 2 to 5.

If a child has not reached the expected standard, schools must give additional support to help the child to make progress in year 2.



Phonics Screening Check - How does it work?

- Shows how well your child can use the phonics skills they've learnt.
- 40 words and 'nonsense-words'.
- All words follow the phonics rules your child has been learning.
- They can sound out and then blend each word.
- Identifies/confirms those that might need some extra support.
- Takes about 5 – 10 minutes to complete.
- 1:1 with a familiar teacher.
- All year 1 children take the screening check, unless they fit the specific exempt criteria. Class teachers will contact you about this beforehand.

Statutory Phonics Check

COVID- 19 update



Due to Lockdown in 2020, the current year 2 children did not have the opportunity to complete the phonics screening check.
























The government have requested that schools administer the phonics screening check for all current year 2 pupils in the latter part of the Autumn 2 term and any retake pupils in June 2021.

Pupils who are currently in Year 1 will complete their screening check in June 2021.

You will be notified of the outcome of your child's screening check in their annual report.

























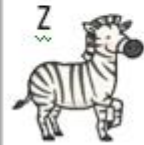

Useful recourses

Phase 2 Sound Mat

s 	a 	t 	p 	i 	n 	m 	d 
g 	o 	c 	k 	ck 	e 	u 	r 
h 	b 	f 	ff 	l 	ll 	ss 	























Useful recourses

Phase 3 Sound Mat

ai 	air 	ar 	ch 	ear 	ee 	er 	igh 
j 	ng 	oa 	oi 	oo 	oo 	or 	ow 
qu 	sh 	th 	ur 	ure 	v 	w 	x 
y 	z 	zz 					

Useful recourses

Phase 5 Sound Mat

ay 	ou 	ie 	ea 	oy 	ir 	ue 	ue 
aw 	wh 	ph 	ew 	ew 	oe 	au 	ey 
a-e 	e- 	i-e 	o-e 	u- 	u-e 		



Useful recourses

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s

This is a useful video from the DfE. It shows the articulation of the different phonemes.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources>

There are many different phonics games on this website to play at home too consolidate your child's learning.

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

There are a range of free, downloadable resources linked to each phonic phase.