Phonics at a Glance
What is Phonics?

Phonics consists of:

• Identifying sounds in spoken words;
• Recognising the common spellings of each phoneme;
• Blending phonemes into words for reading;
• Segmenting words into phonemes for spelling.
Some Definitions

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

How many phonemes can you hear in the word *cat*?
• A *grapheme*  
These are the letters that represent the phoneme.  

![Image with eyes]

The *grapheme* could be 1 letter, 2 letters or more!!

• t  
• ch  
• igh
BLENDING

• Recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example
  c-u-p
  and merging or ‘blending’ them in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word ‘cup’
SEGMENTING

• ‘Chopping Up’ the word to spell it out
• The opposite of blending
• Identifying the individual sounds in a spoken word (e.g. h-i-m , s-t-or-k) and writing down letters for each sound (phoneme) to form the word him and stork
This is where it gets tricky!

- Phonemes are represented by graphemes.
- A grapheme can consist of 1, 2 or more letters.
- A phoneme can be represented/spelled in more than one way (cat, kennel, choir)
- The same grapheme may represent more than one phoneme (me, met)
Grapheme key Vocabulary

- Digraph 2 letters making 1 sound: ai, ee, oo
- Trigraph 3 letters making 1 sound: igh, ear
- Split digraph where the 2 letters are not next to each other: make
Learning the phonemes

Phonics starts in EYFS
Children are introduced to:
• Using common constants and vowels.
• Blending for reading and segmenting for spelling simple CVC words
• Understanding that words are constructed from phonemes and that phonemes are represented by graphemes
Phase 2

Children learn letter sets of 19 phonemes

- 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
Phase 3

When children leave EYFS they should be confident at phase 3.
This is where they learn to:
Read and spell a wide range of CVC words
Use all letters and less frequent consonant digraphs and some long vowel phonemes
• Letter progression
• Set 6  -j, v, w, x
• Set 7  - y, z, zz, qu
• Consonant digraphs
• Ch, sh, th, ng
• Graphemes
• Ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er
Phase 4

- Children don’t learn any new sounds in this phase; they are consolidating what they should already know.
Phase 5
This phase continues throughout year 1. the children will be taught to:
read phonetically decodable two syllable and 3 syllable words
use alternative ways of pronouncing and spelling the graphemes corresponding to the long vowel phonemes.
Spelling complex words using phonetically plausible attempts
Graphemes

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

- Alternative graphemes for:
- i, o, c, g, u, ow, ie, ea, er, a, y, ch, ou
The Phonic Check

- The phonics screening check contains 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words.
- **It happens across the country for ALL children in year 1 in June (week beginning June 12th 2017)**
- **Section 1 consists of 20 words**
  - The words in section 1 will have a variety of simple word structures (for example CVC, VCC, CCVC and CVCC) using:
    - single letters (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q(u), r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z)
    - some consonant digraphs (ch, ck, ff, ll, ng, sh, ss, th, zz)
    - frequent and consistent vowel digraphs (ar, ee, oi, oo, or)
- **Section 2 consists of 20 words**
  - The words in section 2 will have a variety of more complex word structures (for example CCVCC, CCCVC, CCCVCC and two syllable words) with some:
    - additional consonant digraphs (ph, wh)
    - less frequent and consistent vowel digraphs, including split digraphs (a-e, ai, au, aw, ay, ea, e-e, er, ew, i-e, ie, ir, oa, o-e, ou, ow, oy, ue, u-e, ur)
    - trigraphs (air, igh).
What it looks like


What you can do to help

• Practise looking and saying the graphemes
• Spotting them in words when reading
• Segmenting and blending
• Playing games such as phonics play
• Watching Mr Thorne
• Don’t panic!!!
The 44 phonemes

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