



**Branfil**  
Primary School

# Phonics Information

## 2018

# Why do we teach phonics?

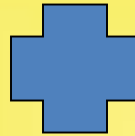
- The ability to read and write well is a vital skill for all children, paving the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience.
- Phonics helps children to develop good reading and spelling skills.



# What is phonics?

Phonics is...

**Skills of  
segmentation and  
blending**



**Knowledge of  
the alphabetic  
code.**



# Phonics consists of...

- Blending sounds into words for reading.
- Segmenting words into sounds for spelling.



# Some Definitions

## Phoneme

This is the smallest unit of sound in a word.

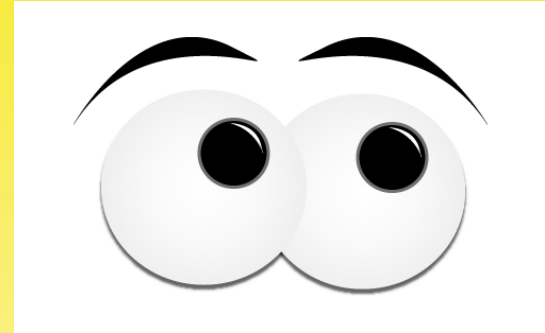


How many phonemes can you hear in cat and that?



# Grapheme

These are the letters  
that represent the phoneme.



Children need to practise recognising the  
grapheme and saying the phoneme that it  
represents.



**A phoneme you hear.**



**A grapheme you see.**



# How to say the sounds

- Saying the sounds correctly with your child is extremely important.
- We say the shortest form of the sounds.
- There is a helpful video showing all 44 phonemes.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIpsmpWOUFY>





# Phase 3

ch

Consonant digraphs

sh

Consonant digraphs

th

Consonant digraphs

ng

Consonant digraphs

ai

Vowel digraphs

ee

Vowel digraphs

igh

Vowel digraphs

oa

Vowel digraphs

oo

Vowel digraphs



# Phase 3

ar

Vowel digraphs

or

Vowel digraphs

ur

Vowel digraphs

ow

Vowel digraphs

oi

Vowel digraphs

ear

Vowel digraphs

air

Vowel digraphs

ure

Vowel digraphs

er

Vowel digraphs



# Phase 5

ay	oy	ou
ir	ie	ue
ea	aw	wh
ph	ew	oe



# Phase 5

au

Phase 5a

ey

Phase 5a

a\_e

Phase 5a - Split digraph

e\_e

Phase 5a - Split digraph

i\_e

Phase 5a - Split digraph

o\_e

Phase 5a - Split digraph

u\_e

Phase 5a - Split digraph



# Segmenting

- shelf = sh – e – l – f = 4 phonemes
- dress = d - r - e – ss = 4 phonemes
- sprint = s – p – r – i – n – t = 6 phonemes
- string = s – t – r – i – ng = 5 phonemes



# What is the phonics screening check?

- The phonics screening check will be taken individually by all Year 1 children in England the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Any Year 2 children who did not pass their phonics screening in Year 1 will also have the opportunity to re-sit the screening.
- It is designed to confirm whether pupils have learnt phonic knowledge to an appropriate standard. It will identify pupils who need extra help to improve their decoding skills.



# What does it look like?

- There will be two sections in this 40-word check and it will assess phonics skills and knowledge learned through Foundation and Year 1.
- Your child will read four words per page to a familiar teacher.
- They will probably do the check in one sitting of about 5-10 minutes.
- We will make it as low-key as possible – the children will not be informed it's a “test”.



# What are nonsense and pseudo words and why are they included?

- These are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with associated meaning e.g brip, snorb.
- Pseudo words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonics skills and not their memory.
- The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of a monster and they will be asked to tell us what sort of monster it is by reading the word. This not only makes the check a bit more fun, but provides the children with a context for the nonsense word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Crucially, it does not provide any clues, so your child just has to be able to decode it.





# Pseudo words from the test

Section 1

poth	
shan	
veen	
quorg	

drap	
flarm	
lect	
voisk	



# Is there a pass mark?

- The pass mark last year was 32 out of 40 (80%). You will be informed how your child performed in the test by the end of the year.
- Children progress at different speeds so not reaching the threshold score does not necessarily mean there is a serious problem. Some children do not need to use phonics to help them read and sometimes good readers do not pass the phonics screening check.
- If your child does not pass in Year 1, they will re-sit the check the following summer term in Year 2.
- As yet, the government have not revealed the pass mark for this Summer's screening check.



# What we are doing in school.

- Daily phonics lessons in ability groups
- Regular exposure to pseudo words during these sessions
- Children read 1:1 with an adult at least twice a week
- Application of phonics skills in other lessons



# What can you do to help?

- Read at least 5 times a week with your child.
  - Look for words when you are out and about (e.g. signs, labels, leaflets)
  - Play phonics games online
    - 1) Espresso  
([http://10.120.234.15/espresso/primary\\_uk/home/index.html](http://10.120.234.15/espresso/primary_uk/home/index.html) UN: student12318 PW: branfil)
    - 2) Phonics Play ([www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk) some free otherwise subscribe)
    - 3) ICTgames (<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>)
- Don't forget to check out phonics Apps for the iPad.



# Glossary

- Phoneme – the smallest unit of identifiable sound, i.e. the letters ‘sh’ represent one sound, but ‘sp’ represents two (/s/ and /p/).
- Digraph – two letters making one sound, i.e. sh, th, ch, ph.
- Trigraph – three letters used to represent one single sound, i.e. igh, air.
- Split digraphs – two letters, split, making one sound, i.e. a-e as in make and i-e as in time.
- Segmenting – to split up a word into its individual phonemes in order to spell. For example, the word ‘cat’ has three phonemes: /c/, /a/, /t/.
- Blending – to draw individual sounds together to pronounce a word. For example, s-n-a-p blended together reads snap.



**REMEMBER: Phonics is not the only thing needed to become a fluent reader.**

Please continue to read with your child each night and encourage them to:

- Sound out unfamiliar words
- Re-read to check it makes sense.
- Use pictures for clues.
- Ask questions about the book.

And most importantly **ENJOY READING!**

