



## Introduction to Phonics

Manby Lodge Infant School follows the Essential Letters and Sounds scheme (ELS). This is a DfE validated systematic synthetic phonics programme which has been based on Letters and Sounds.

### **What is phonics?**

Phonics is a way of teaching reading where your child is taught to read letters or groups of letters by saying the sounds they represent. It is one of the first steps to reading: it teaches the relationship between the letters and the sounds (phonemes) of words.

The sound (phoneme) is the first thing your child needs to recognise.

### **Learning the letter sounds (phonemes)**

- Your child should learn each letter by its sound and not the name.
- The letters are NOT introduced in alphabetical order.
- Each sound has an illustration, mnemonic or rhyme to help the children remember it.
- As your child progresses you can point to the letter and encourage your child to repeat the rhyme OR point to the picture and ask your child to say the sound.
- As your child becomes more confident the rhymes or mnemonics are no longer needed.

**Phoneme** – the smallest unit of sound within a word

**Grapheme** – the letter or group of letters that represent a sound

**Phase 1** (Nursery / Pre-School) – exploring and experimenting with environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and oral blending.

**Phase 2** (Reception / Year 1) – starting to learn phonemes (letter sounds) and graphemes (letter(s) representing the sounds), oral blending and introducing 12 new harder to read and spell (HRS) words.

**Phase 3** (Reception / Year 1) – continuing to learn more phonemes/graphemes and beginning to read and spell simple words. Children are also introduced to 32 new HRS words.

**Phase 4** (Reception / Year 1) – No new graphemes/phonemes introduced. Children are taught to read and spell longer words and introduced to suffixes. Phase 2 and 3 is revised.

**Phase 5** (Reception / Year 1) – Learn alternative ways of spelling previously taught sounds (e.g. 'c' coat/city) and new HRS words.

**Beyond Phase 5** (Year 1 / Year 2) – Continued links being made between grapheme/phoneme knowledge and spelling. Revision of all previously taught for reading and spelling. As children move onwards through the school, they continue to be encouraged to use their knowledge of phonics as they tackle more complex books and learn to spell more sophisticated words.

### **Useful Websites**

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

<http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>

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

<http://mrthorne.com>



[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)





### Games to play:

- I spy (“I spy, something beginning with the sound...”)
- Sound Gobbler – e.g. Gordon Gobbler! Use a cardboard box to make a person or creature! Children can post sounds through the mouth.
- Sorting Game: get 2 baskets/plates/trays and put a letter card on them eg ‘s’ ‘a’. Ask children to find objects beginning with that sound. Say the name of the object and put it in the correct place.
- Puppet – have a puppet which misses off the first sound. Encourage your child to help thepuppet say the word correctly
- Odd One Out – use objects beginning with the same sound except one, challenge children to identify which object is the odd one out.
- Bingo – match the pictures to the sound/letter
- Flashcards – cut up the phonemes and harder to read and spell words

### Harder to Read and Spell Words

Within the different phases your child will also learn words that are called harder to read and spell words (HRS). Often, they cannot be decoded.

Words that are harder to read and spell (HRS words) – Use the the HRS word cards and ask the child to read each word. Mark the words the child reads correctly. Highlight to show any errors.				
a	we	so	Mr	who
I	me	have	Mrs	whole
the	be	were	your	where
no	push	out	ask	two
put	was	like	should	sugar
of	her	some	would	here
is	my	come	could	because
to	you	there	asked	work
go	they	little	house	
into	all	one	mouse	
pull	are	do	water	
as	ball	children	want	
his	tall	love	very	
he	when	oh	please	
she	what	their	once	
buses	said	people	any	
			many	
			again	



## **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar**

Spelling, punctuation and grammar is taught every day in school across Key Stage 1. During these lessons children will learn:

### **Spelling**

The children will learn how to spot patterns in words, to understand their roots, suffixes and prefixes and how to apply this when spelling independently.

### **Punctuation**

Children will learn the punctuation marks used in a piece of text (e.g. full stop, comma, apostrophe, exclamation mark). They will learn how to recognise and use punctuation correctly. They will learn how it alters meaning in reading and writing.

### **Grammar**

Children will learn the parts of a sentence and their names (e.g. adjective, adverb, verb, noun). They will practise playing and using words in a meaningful context, during speaking and listening, reading and writing.