

Teaching of Phonics at Nishkam Primary School

Nishkam Primary School follow the governments Letters and Sounds phonics programme to teach phonics. This six phase teaching programme focuses on a systematic approach to high quality phonic work.

The Intention is to "...equip children who are 5 with the phonic knowledge and skills they need to become fluent readers by the age of 7."

By the end of Year Two. children should have completed phase 6. The children are regularly assessed by the teachers, and appropriate teaching of the phases is planned for.

Phonics consists of:

- ❖ identifying sounds in spoken words;
- ❖ recognising the common spellings of each phoneme (sound);
- ❖ blending phonemes into words for reading;
- ❖ segmenting words into phonemes for spelling.

Below is information about the 6 phases, and the progression between them.

Phase 1

There are seven phonological stages to phase 1 and these are taught throughout the Nursery year. The skills taught also underpin the rest of the phases in the programme.

The seven stages are:

- Environmental sounds
- Instrumental sounds
- Body percussion
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Alliteration
- Voice sounds
- Oral blending and segmenting

Phase 2

During Phase 2, we introduce letter sounds so that children can begin to identify letters by their sound and name so they can develop the skills for segmenting (breaking down words for spelling) and blending (merging sounds together to read a word) for reading simple words. e.g s-a-t.

They also learn some tricky words that can't be spelt phonetically – **the, to, I, go, no**

Phase 3

This is the phase where children become more fluent at reading and spelling using the sounds they have learnt in phase 2. They also learn additional sounds called digraphs (where two letters make one sound e.g th, sh, ch) and trigraphs (three letters that make one sound e.g ear, igh, ure)

Ways to help your child at home

Continue to play with magnetic letters, using some of the two grapheme (letter) combinations:

r-ai-n = rain blending for reading **rain = r-ai-n** – segmenting for spelling **b-oa-t = boat** blending for reading **boat = b-oa-t** – segmenting for spelling

Phase 4

The national expectation is that children will be working at phase 4 at the end of the Reception year going into Year 1. In phase 4, we teach the children to read and spell words containing adjacent consonants (e.g cr, fr, nd, bl)

Children will be taught to blend and segment adjacent consonants in words and apply this skill when reading and spelling.

Children will move from CVC words (pot, sheep) to CVCC words (pots) and CCVC words (spot) and then CCVCC words (spots).

Ways to help your child at home

Look out for words in the environment, such as on food packaging, which your child will find easy to read, for example, lunch, fresh milk, drink, crisps

Phase 5

This is taught throughout Year 1.

During phase 5 we will be teaching children to recognise and use alternative ways of pronouncing the graphemes (letters) and spelling the phonemes (sounds) already taught e.g. the 'c' in coat and city.

They will also be taught to read an increasing number of high frequency words automatically. Knowledge and skills of phonics will still be the prime approach to reading and spelling.

At the end of Year One, the children undertake a statutory phonic assessment to assess their phonic knowledge. This data is shared with the local authority.

Ways to help your child at home

Read with your child – ask your child to attempt unknown words, using their phonic skills and knowledge. Make sure they **blend** all through the word.

Talk about the meaning of the book, too – take time to talk about what is happening in the book, or things that they found really interesting in an

information book. Discuss the characters and important events. Ask them their views. Provide toys, puppets and dressing-up clothes that will help them to act out stories.

Explain the meaning of words (vocabulary) that your child can read but may not understand, for example, flapped, roared.

Write a shopping list together.

Phase 6

This phase is taught throughout Year 2. This phase teaches the children to read and spell an increasing number of complex words and how to change words according to different spelling rules and patterns.

It also enables them to independently break down longer words and teaches them strategies to become independent and confident spellers.

Ways to help your child at home

Visit the local library

Listen to them read their school home reader each night (it doesn't have to be the whole book!)

Leave them a message on the fridge and encourage them to write back to you

Write an email together

Read to your child at bedtime and let them choose the story.