



How We Teach Phonics

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read and write. It is the ability to hear, identify and manipulate sounds and to understand that a sound is represented in different ways.

At Toner Avenue, we have recently introduced the 'Sounds Write' scheme. It is based on research on the cognitive load theory and we feel that it will work effectively for the children in our school.

It provides clearly structured, easy to follow lessons which are important for consistency throughout. It is developmentally appropriate for beginning readers at each stage in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. It also offers fast and effective intervention for those who have fallen behind in their reading and spelling. It places emphasis on giving practise that is grounded in physical, concrete experience of the ideas and conceptual understanding that pupils need to assimilate. It also has a focus on the three essential skills of segmenting, blending and phoneme manipulation, necessary for reading and spelling, until the children achieve the automaticity that underlies the fluency of every successful reader.

The books the children are able to read at this early stage of reading are matched to their current phonic ability to allow them to practise and consolidate their reading skills learned in their phonics lessons.

The programme is split into 2 sections, the initial code (Reception) and the extended code (KS1). The children are taught that the sound can be represented in different ways, this is how we teach the 'tricky' words.

Here are some of the terms you may come across in our phonics work:

Vowels - the open sounds/ letters of the alphabet a, e,i, o and u.

Consonants - sounds/letters of the alphabet that are not vowels.

Split spelling - where the letters are split but make one sound e.g a_e in cake

Digraph - 1 sound represented by 2 letters

Trigraph - 1 sound represent by 3 letters

Blending - To merge sounds together to read a word c-a-t =cat

Segmenting - To break a word into the individual sounds to be able to spell it

Phoneme manipulation - To change the sounds within words e.g. change 'cat' to 'cap'

Polysyllabic Words - Words with more than one syllable

Helping with phonics at home

Visit

<https://www.udemy.com/help-your-child-to-read-and-write/learn/v4/overview> for a free Sounds Write parents course.

Say the pure sounds not 'muh' it's'mm'.

Say the pure sounds not the letter names e.g d not 'dee'.

Read regularly with your child both them reading to you and you reading to them will ensure they make more rapid progress.



Toner Avenue School
Tradition Achievement Success

We often put on phonics meetings and family learning sessions, so please be aware of any letters to invite you to these sessions.

If you need any further support or help, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or our English Lead, Miss Cox.

December 2019