

Phonics at Kneesall

All schools are required to teach phonics using an approved scheme. At Kneesall, we use Read Write Inc (RWI) by Ruth Miskin.

What is phonics?

Phonics is how we learn to read and write. Words can be broken into sounds (phonemes) that we can blend to read eg. c - a - t - cat or segment to spell e.g. cat – c – a – t.

When we see the sounds written down as letters, we call these graphemes.

Out of the 26 letter alphabet, we teach 44 sounds. Some letters may make more than one sound. Some letters work in twos and threes to make one sound (digraphs and trigraphs) e.g. 'ay' in play, 'ar' in park, 'igh' in light. In Year 1 children will be taught alternative ways to spell some of these sounds e.g. In Foundation they learn 'ay' and in Year 1 they will learn 'ai' – the same sounds but a different spelling depending on the word it is in.

In Foundation, the children will progressively learn the Set 1 and 2 sounds throughout the year:

The simple code: Set 1 and 2 sounds

Consonant sounds – stretchy

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng nk
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Consonant sounds – bouncy

b	c k	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
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Vowel sounds – bouncy

a	e	i	o	u
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Vowel sounds – stretchy

ay	ee	igh	ow
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Vowel sounds – stretchy

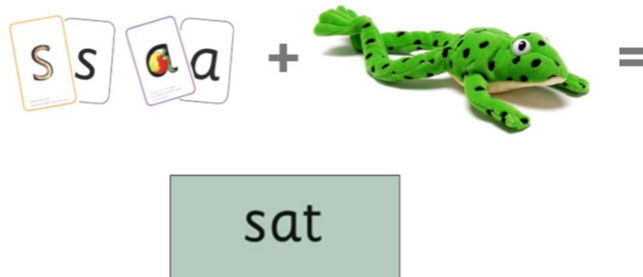
oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy
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When we teach children the sounds, we use the shortest purest sound so that we avoid adding an 'uh' sound on the end e.g. 'tuh'. Please see the video link on ClassDojo for help pronouncing the sounds.

We teach all the letters alongside a picture. Children will begin to learn the picture names in the Summer term of nursery. Alongside the names, there are handwriting phrases that support children with letter formation. E.g. for 's' we say "slither down the snake". When writing at home, please always teach children to use lower case except for a capital letter at the start of their name.



Before teaching children to read sounds and blend them into a word. We practise oral blending through Fred games. Fred the Frog is our phonics helper. He can only speak in 'Fred Talk'. We use a Fred soft toy to Fred talk sounds for children to blend to say the word. E.g. Fred says c – a – t then the children say cat. When children are confident oral blending and can recognise the first 16 Set 1 sounds, they will begin to read simple 3 letter words on green word cards. These 3 letter words are called CVC words: consonant, vowel, consonant. These will progress to 4 and 5 letter words as children learn more sounds.



How to support your child at home:

- Use pure sounds not letter names.
- Use lower case for writing. Only use capitals for the first letter in a name.
- Practise reading and writing the sounds in the green Set 1 speed sounds book that children have in their reading folders. Use the letter formation handout to support children when writing at home e.g. on birthday cards or helping to write a shopping list.
- Practise reading your child's RWI phonics book regularly at home. As children progress through the scheme, they will move through the book levels.
- Watch the Virtual Classroom videos on ClassDojo to practise the sounds we have been learning in school.

