**Phonics**

Terminology

* **Phoneme** - The smallest unit of sound. There are approximately 44 phonemes in English (it depends on different accents). Phonemes can be put together to make words.
* **Grapheme** - A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. p, 2 letters e.g. sh, 3 letters e.g. tch or 4 letters e.g ough.
* **GPC** - This is short for Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme to a grapheme and vice versa.
* **Digraph** - A grapheme containing two letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).
* **Trigraph** - A grapheme containing three letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).
* **Oral Blending** - This involves hearing phonemes and being able to merge them together to make a word. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to blend written words.
* **Blending**- This involves looking at a written word, looking at each grapheme and using knowledge of GPCs to work out which phoneme each grapheme represents and then merging these phonemes together to make a word. This is the basis of reading.
* **Oral Segmenting** - This is the act hearing a whole word and then splitting it up into the phonemes that make it. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to segment words to spell them.
* **Segmenting** - This involves hearing a word, splitting it up into the phonemes that make it, using knowledge of GPCs to work out which graphemes represent those phonemes and then writing those graphemes down in the right order. This is the basis of spelling.

Phase 1

The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.

Phase 2

* **Set 1 - s a t p**
* **Set 2 - i n m d**
* **Set 3 - g o c k**
* **Set 4 - ck e u r**
* **Set 5 - h b f ff l ll s ss**

Children can immediately start to blend these sounds once they have been learnt to read simple CVC words –e.g Sat, Pin

(CVC refers to words with a consonant, vowel, consonant)

Phase 3

* **Set 6 - j v w x**
* **Set 7 - y z zz qu**
* **Consonant digraphs - ch sh th ng**
* **Vowel digraphs (and trigraphs) ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur ow oi ear air ure er**

Phase 4

* Revision of sounds that have previously been learnt and a focus on reading tricky words.

Phase 5a

* Introduce some new GPCs. Five of these GPCs are known as split digraphs. They are **a\_e, e\_e, i\_e, o\_e, u\_e**.

Phase 5B – 5D

* Introduce that some graphemes can be pronounced in more than one way. This is a vital lesson for children to learn and they need to learn to apply it in their reading.
* Learning that some phonemes have more than one spelling.

Phase 6

* Phase 6 reinforces much of the learning from Phase 5, helps children to develop

greater automaticity in reading, and begins to explore spelling rules e.g. adding -ing and -ed.