

Godmanchester Community Education Trust

Helping your child learn to read



Reading

Learning to read

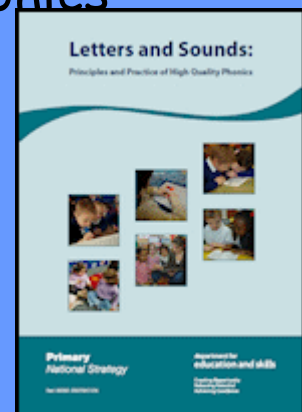
Lots of things are needed to make the process of learning to read a happier experience

- Reading for enjoyment through experiencing a wide range of books
- understanding the meaning of the story
 - Visual clues
 - Phonics/letters and sounds
 - Recognising tricky words

Phonics/ letters and sounds

- Phonics and reading skills are taught in 6 distinct phases.
 - These phases are set out in the Letters and Sounds document .
 - The Letter and sounds scheme is based on Synthetic phonics- this school has taught this way for last 20 + year.
 - It has been proved to be a very successful tool in helping children to read and write.
- . We combine the letters and sounds teaching with Jolly phonics actions and songs. These can be found on 'You Tube'.

Letters and Sounds



Phase 1 was introduced at pre-school and we continue to build on this in Foundation. It includes:

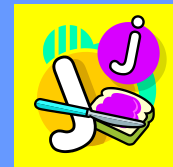
- The awareness of rhyme
- Sounds in the environment
- Experimenting with making sounds



Phase 2



- Understanding that words are constructed from phonemes and represented by graphemes. Here is a letters and sounds link to how the phonemes should be pronounced correctly



Phase 3

- Phase 3 introduces the digraphs and trigraphs.

- These sounds include

Digraphs – ai ee oa

Trigraphs – igh ear air

Phoneme



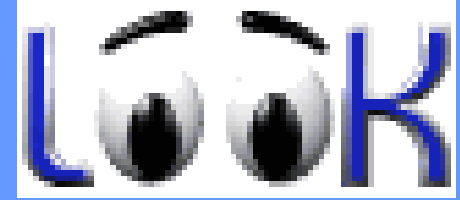
This is the smallest unit of sound in a word.

How many phonemes can you hear in this word?

cat?

c - a - t

There are 43 phonemes in the English language!



Grapheme

(graphics)

These are the letters that represent the phoneme.

A grapheme could be 1 letter, 2 letters or more

t ai igh

two letters but 1 sound - digraphs

three letters but 1 sound - trigraphs

Tricky words

- We have provided you with a list of tricky and high frequency words. These also listed in the booklet.
- Tricky words are words that cannot be sounded out. E.g.
- Was, said, I , go, me, she

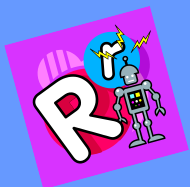


How many sounds?



- How many sounds –

Word	Number of sounds??	Answer
tap	e.g. t-a-p	3
train		
march		
light		
tractor		
chimpanzee		

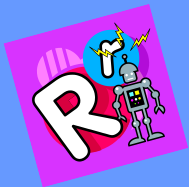


How many sounds?



- How many sounds –

Word	Number of sounds??	Answer
tap	e.g. t-a-p	3
train	T-r-ai-n	4
march	M-ar-ch	3
light	L-igh-t	3
tractor	T-r-a-c-t-or	6
chimpanzee	Ch-i-m-p-a-n-z-ee	8



Information for parents



- The phonemes, high frequency words and tricky words we learn each week will follow the phonics teaching sets. The sequence for these is listed in the booklet.
- Newsletters - these will also be mentioned in the termly newsletters.

How you can help your child at home

Games- I-spy; phoneme bags; musical statues, phonemes round room- on furniture etc;



Supermarket visits- get me the fruit beginning with..... particular phoneme

Useful websites:

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.ictgames.com/literacy.html

Reading

- Please give your child lots of reading opportunities not just school books - own story books, road names, supermarkets, signs, labels etc
- Children will bring home three books each week in a zip bag. Please send the zip bags back each Monday so that we can change books over. From time to time they may also bring other resources home for their folders e.g. phonics flashcards
- Please leave the zip folders in the children's book bags throughout the week in case we need to read with them in class.
- Teachers will change the book bands when the child shows signs in class that they are ready. Remember this is a reinforcement activity to allow your child to succeed at reading and be proud of their achievements.
- We have an open door policy - just send a note or phone and we will see you as soon as possible if you have any concerns.
 - Reading should be a special time with parents.
- We need to work in a partnership with you, your child will need your support and help as well as ours.

Reading Diaries

- These books are there for you to record what your child is reading and so that you can provide us with feedback on their progress at home.
- We will only change the books if the diary has been signed and the books and comments have been listed.
- We will check the diaries every Monday when we change the books. Please send important notices separately.

Thank you for coming

Your child's class teacher will always be happy to answer any question you may have.