



Phonics and Early Reading Meeting

Foundation Intake 2026



Agenda for this evening



- **Welcome**
- **Introduction to Phonics - What is it? Why is it important for early reading? Mrs Adams**
- **A look at how best you can support your child with phonics at home. Mrs Adams**
- **An opportunity to look more closely at the Song of Sounds resources.**
- **Any Questions?**



Phonics and Early Reading-

Mrs Adams & Mrs
Parkin



What is Phonics?



- **Phonics is how we teach children to read and write.**
- **English is made up of around 44 different sounds. These sounds are called phonemes.**
- **Each phoneme (sound) can be represented by 1 or more letters. These are called graphemes.**



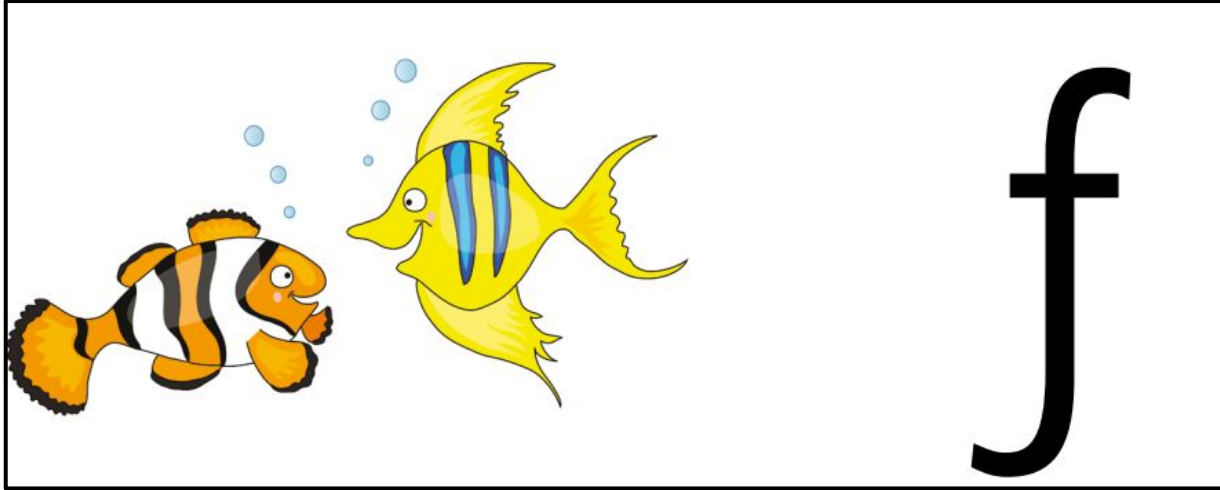
What does phonics teaching look like at Oak Tree Primary?



- We use 'Song of Sounds' as our synthetic phonics scheme. This runs from EYFS through Key Stage 1.
- The children work through the single letter sounds and then move onto digraphs and trigraphs.
- We focus on sound talk from the very beginning.



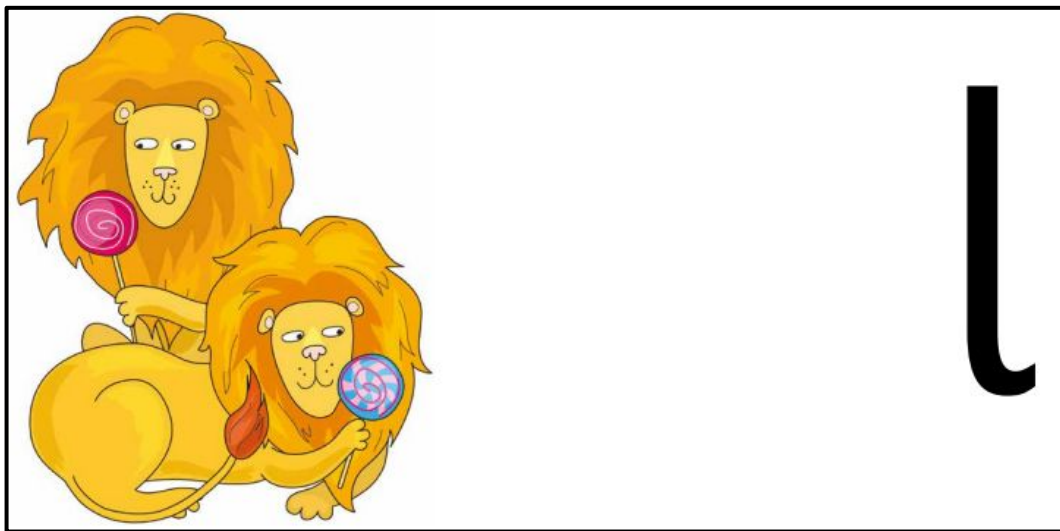
How do I pronounce the sounds?



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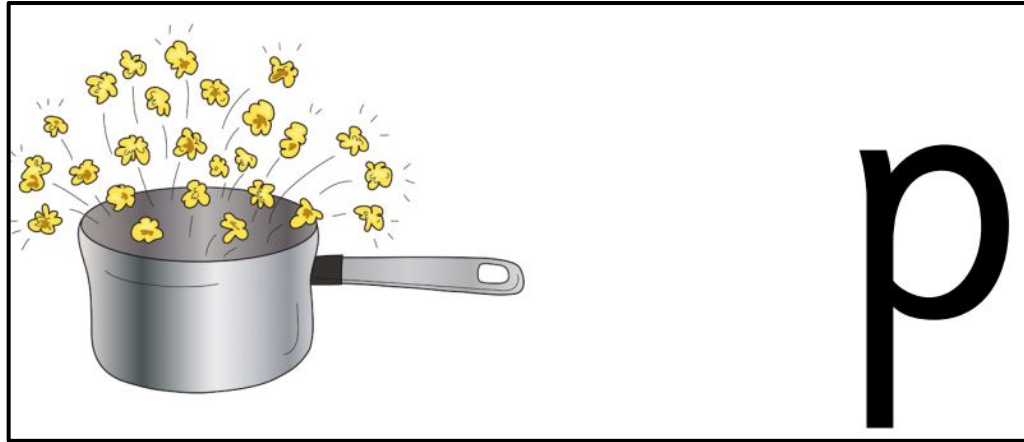
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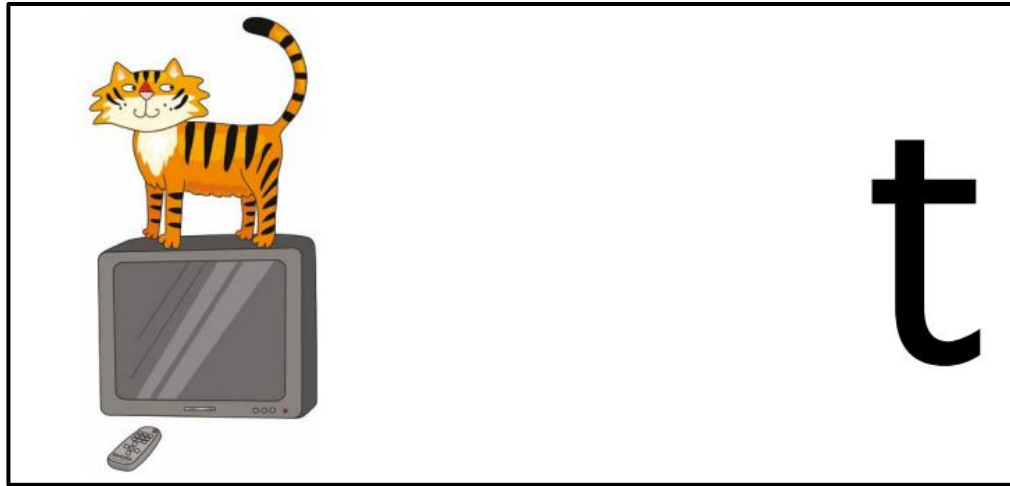
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What are the technical words?



Digraph

Two letters that make one sound

ar or sh ee

Trigraph

Three letters that make one sound

air igh ear ure



Sound talk and blending



s- a- t
sat

- Sound talk is a key part of early phonics development. Your child needs to be able to hear the sounds in a word and blend them together to say the word.
- Blending is recognising the graphemes (letters) in a word and blending them together e.g c-a-t is cat.



Sound talk...



box

• • •



Sound talk...



can

• • •



Sound talk...



dig



Sound talk...



fan



What is segmenting?



Segmenting is saying the sounds they hear in a word out loud and then writing them. Segmenting is for spelling, blending is for reading.



Segmenting



leg

• • •



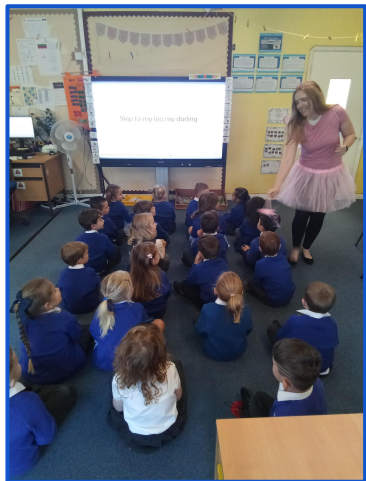
Pupil voice



100% of children asked
said they liked doing Song
of Sounds.



Why the children like Song of Sounds



Why the children like Song of Sounds



"It is so easy to
learn your
sounds." - Year 1
child

"I like the
singing"
- Year 1 child

"It helps you to learn
and to know your
sounds" - Year 1 child



How the Song of Sounds helps the children



"When you are writing a sentence it helps you know what sound to write in each word."
- Year 1 child

"It helps me with reading and writing"
- Year 1 child



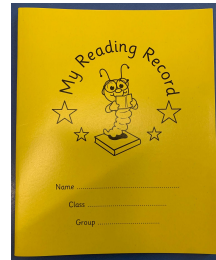
"It gives you these rhymes you can remember, it is an easy way of remembering the sounds." - Year 2 child



Supporting your child at home



- Please share a book with your child every day. **You should record this in your child's yellow reading record book.**
- To begin with, your child may bring home books or picture cards with no words. This is a chance to talk about the pictures and discuss what might be happening. Your child could retell the story to you, say their favourite character or think of an alternative ending.
- **If your child reads with you 5x in a week they earn Dojo points towards their house total.**



Supporting your child at home



Book Banded Books

- We will assess your child's phonics and blending as they progress through EYFS and key Stage 1.
- When your child is secure at a particular level we will put a colour sticker in their reading record book with next steps and they will start to take that colour book home.
- The children are given opportunities to change their books twice a week.
- We assess them regularly and they should be reading the books **confidently** at home.



Supporting your child at home



If you read just one
book a day to your
child, they will have
been read 1825 books
by their 5th birthday.

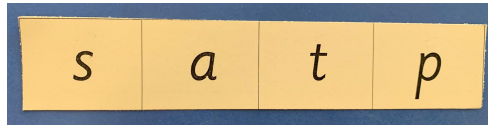
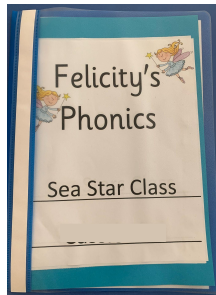
Every Book Counts



Supporting your child at home



- Working on recognising the sounds daily.
- Also doing lots of robot talk and sound talk will help them to hear and blend sounds together.
- Pointing to a grapheme and your child says the sound.
- Cutting up the sound strip and placing them face down. Your child then says the sound and action.
- Singing the Song of Sounds Stage 1 song together.



Phonics is fun!



- Fishing for sounds in the bath. Lowercase letters are preferable.
- Sound hunts in the house.
- Shaving foam on the bath tiles.
- Write the graphemes on post its and put them up the stairs to jump on or on the fridge or splat the sounds with a fly swatter/water gun.



We've embraced
thrive
in our Setting

- ‘I Spy the Sound’ is a fun way to build phonics skills and phonemic awareness. In this variation of the classic game, ‘I Spy’, ask your child to spy words that begin with a certain sound, rather than a letter. For example, “I spy with my little eye, something beginning with mmm.”

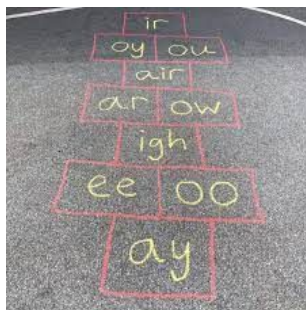


Phonics is fun!



Phonics Hopscotch

- All you need for this fun phonics activity is a piece of chalk and the ground. Simply draw hopscotch markings on the ground (how many squares and in what shape they are arranged is up to you). In each square draw a letter of the alphabet (you may want to draw both the upper and lower case letters in each).
- There are many ways you can play this game – you can call out a letter or combination of letters and ask your child to jump on those letters, and as they do, for them to sound out each letter.



Letter Races

- This game requires a magnetic board, magnetic letters, and a lot of space! Set up the magnetic board on one side of the room, and place the magnetic letters in a basket or bowl on the other side. Call out a sound, or a word starting or ending in a particular sound. Then ask your child (with a ready, set, go!) to pick out the correct magnetic letters and run over as fast as they can to stick it on the board.



Any questions?

Contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo or catch them at drop off or collection

Email address: office@oaktreeprimary.co.uk



Useful Links



What is Phonics?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42jb6PopZCI>

Guide on how to pronounce pure sounds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

Song of Sounds Stage 1 Song

<https://youtu.be/UdWOstgf3hU>

Oak Tree Primary Website

<https://oaktreeprimary.co.uk/>

Song of Sounds website

<https://www.songofsounds.co.uk/page/?title=Parent+Guide&pid=14>