



WEST BOROUGH
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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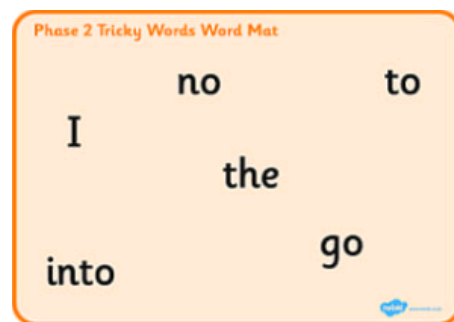
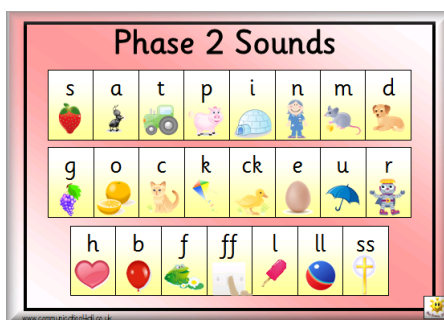
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Headteacher Mrs Ashley Crittenden BEd Hons NPQH

22nd October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As this term is drawing to an end, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on the way that we have been teaching phonics. So far, your child has been taught all of the Phase 2 phonemes and tricky words. You can see them here.



We teach phonics every day. We do this by having one stand-alone lesson in the morning and then short bursts throughout the day, which might include, songs and games.

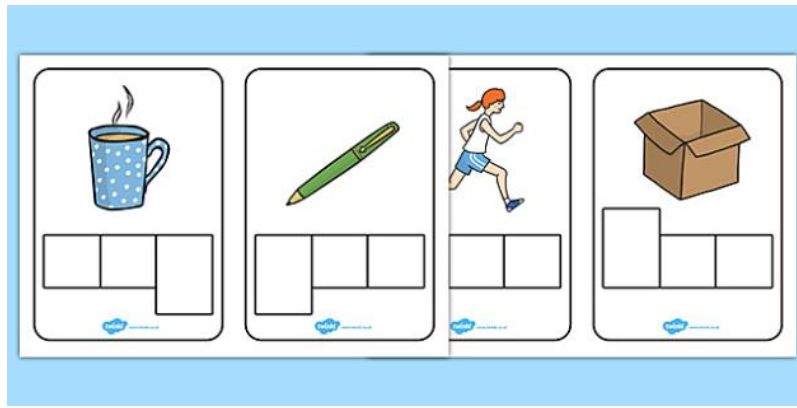
Your child has been learning an action to help to remind them of the sound each phoneme makes. We use Jolly Phonics to support with this. They have also learnt some digraphs (when 2 letters make one sound, such as *ff* and *ss*). Hopefully they have been keen to show you what they have been learning, so that you can reinforce this at home! Please do remember that children learn at different rates – some will remember all the phonemes and tricky words taught so far and some might only remember a few, which is absolutely fine.

How can you help at home?

A good way to support your child is by drawing phoneme frames. A phoneme frame is designed to simplify how to listen to the number of sounds in a word. In reception, children are taught the individual sounds of the letters and how to put these sounds together to create two or three letter words, such as *at*, *on*, *dog*, *hat* and *bus* etc. Each of these blending sounds has three distinct phonemes which can be split up: For example, /d/ /o/ and /g/.

It's important that children learn to read the 'pure sound' of the phoneme, for example, the sound 'c' is pronounced 'c' rather than 'see' or 'cu'. This is because it makes it easier for children with their spelling and reading.

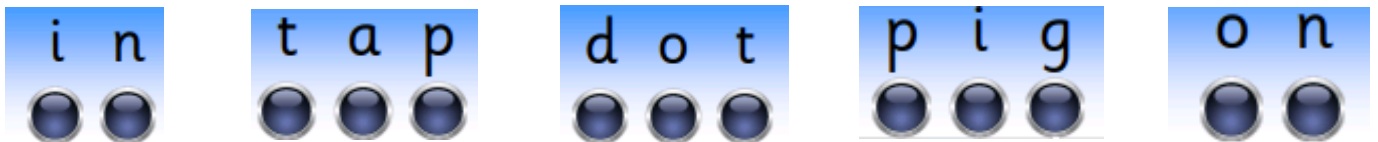
A phoneme frame separates a word into boxes to match the number of sounds that can be heard in it.



Children are often aware that there is a first and last letter in a word, as that is what you hear first. Using a phoneme frame helps them to be able to identify the middle sound, as they can see clearly from the frame how many sounds they are listening out for.

Sound Buttons

Sound buttons are circles or spots that are drawn underneath each grapheme to support reading. When you touch the sound button you say the sound aloud. Here are some examples:



You could also play games to support with phonics –

- Eye Spy
- Go on a sound walk.
- Look for tricky words in books
- Play matching games like snap using phase 2 phonemes and tricky words

Here are some explanations of the terminology used in phonics (so far!)

Phoneme – the smallest unit of sound in a word. It is the sound made by a letter or group of letters. For example the word ‘cat’ has three phonemes, **c a t**. The word ‘shop’ also has three phonemes, **sh o p**.

Grapheme – the written representation of a sound, the written letter.

Digraph – two letters which go together to make one phoneme, e.g. oo, ee, ai, ch, sh etc.

Blend – to put all of the phonemes in a word together to read the word. For example, we can sound out the word ‘cat’ by saying c, a, t and then saying the sounds more quickly to blend them together to make the word.

Sound buttons – when teaching children to read we draw sound buttons under each grapheme in the word so that the children can ‘press’ them and say the sound made by that letter.

Sound bars – as with sound buttons but used for digraphs, where the phoneme is made by more than one letter.

Phoneme frame – a grid used to help children segment words for spelling – one phoneme goes in each box.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Miss Meakin-Scott. We will be more than happy to answer any individual queries.

Wishing you all a relaxing half-term break,

G. Jury-SQ

Mrs Gemma Jury-Sofi
Early Years Lead / Bonsai Class Teacher