

Parent Information Leaflet

Letters and Sounds



2019-2020



At Peacehaven Heights Primary School and Nursery, we want children to be confident, successful learners. Learning to read is a high priority at our school because it opens up whole new worlds and provides opportunities to be independent.

Our children take part in daily phonics sessions which last for 20 minutes. This a fun, fast, focused session where children learn new sounds, work on letter formation, sounds in words and tricky words.

This leaflet contains the breakdown of each of the six phases and a glossary of terms which we use with the children.

Why do we teach Letters and Sounds?

There are over 42 different sounds (phonemes) in the English Language. Children need to be confident at recognising the sounds to become fluent readers. Phonics has to be relevant, purposeful and fun to engage our children, enthuse and inspire children to read.

Good readers = good writers = independent learners
= confident, successful children.

Phase One

Embedded in the first year of Early Years Foundation Stage.

It has a focus on listening skills and is divided into 7 different aspects.

Aspects 1-3 Listening, recognising, making and discriminating sounds-body sounds and instrumental sounds.

Aspects 4-6 -Rhyme, Rhythm and alliteration and voice sounds.

Aspect 7 -Oral segmenting and blending sounds

Phase Two

Most children begin in Reception year.

Children learn to say the letters of the alphabet in letter sets e.g s a t p i n.

Form the letters correctly.

Begin to read and spell simple words.

Learn to read some simple High frequency words from memory.

Phase Three

Reinforce alphabet sounds.

Introduce digraphs e.g. ch, sh, th, ng.

Blend words for reading e.g. ch - a - t

Segment words for spelling e.g. s-i-ng

Phase Four

Reinforce all of phase three sounds.

Children need to be secure in sounds before progressing to Phase 5.

Children progressing to fluent reading.

Children know spelling of key words.

Phase Six

Children are expected to be fluent readers.

Reinforce sounds from Phase 5.

Introduced to spelling patterns and rules e.g.

adding -ing = bake becomes baking.

Ongoing until child is secure.

Spelling Group

When children have been assessed as completing all the phases, then they work on applying their knowledge to more challenging spellings e.g. Homo-phones, prefixes, suffixes, unstressed vowels etc. (please see glossary for further information).

Glossary of Terms

Phoneme/ sound buttons

- a single sound 'c' 'sh' 'ee'

Grapheme - what the sound looks like in writing.

Digraph - a single sound that is represented by two letter sounds
'ch' 'sh' 'ee' 'ss'

Blending - a strategy to read unfamiliar words 'c-a-t'.

Segmenting - a strategy to spell unfamiliar words 'sh-o-p'

Sight reading - instantly recognising a word without having to blend.

High frequency word (hfw) - words the children have to be able to sight read before becoming fluent readers.

Homophones - sail, sale sea, see

Useful Websites

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.focusonphonics.co.uk

www.parentsintouch.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/ks1/bitesize/literacy

<http://www.readingrockets.org/helping/target/phonics/>