

# Letters and Sounds

Phase 1  
Phase 2  
Phase 3  
Phase 4  
Phase 5  
Phase 6

Phonics teaching at the Belthorn follows the Letters and Sounds programme. All children from Reception to Year 2 have a 20 minute phonic session 4 times a week. The children follow a six phase programme with lessons consisting of a variety of games, multi-sensory activities, and different learning styles. Lessons follow the following structure:

- Revisit and review – where previously taught sounds are revised.
- Teach – new graphemes and new high frequency words are taught.
- Practise – your child will practise writing letters and words, using a variety of media.
- Apply – there will be opportunities to read and write captions and sentences.

The Children's progress is regularly assessed and the children are put into different groups according to their different abilities and needs, although we do try to keep the children with their class group whenever we can. Resources and activities are carefully planned to ensure that phonics sessions are well prepared for, quick fire and progressive.

## Letters and sounds ★ Phase 1-6

### The six phases

- Phase 1 focuses on speaking and listening skills. There will be opportunities for sound walks where children listen carefully to sounds around them and rhyme and story based activities.
- Phase 2 is the beginning of a systematic and high quality phonics teaching approach. There will be opportunities for your child to practise the newly taught sounds and words throughout the day. This phase starts with the teaching of the sounds that these letters make: s, a, t, p, i, n. They will then be able to begin using these sounds to blend and segment words and read simple captions. For example sat, pin, pat, tin.

- Phase 3 moves on to the teaching of sounds represented by more than one letter. For example; ai, er, oa. Children will begin reading captions, sentences and questions using these sounds.
- Phase 4 is a revision phase and concentrates on the teaching of adjacent consonants e.g swim, jump, clap.
- Phase 5 teaches the children different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know. For example: ay, ai, a-e.
- Phase 6 is the final stage and the children work on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters.

Phases 1-3 are usually taught during the children's time in Reception/Little Bells. Year 1 concentrates on Phases 4 and 5, and in Year 2, the children cover phase 6. Some children may need further support with phonics. If this is the case, support will continue throughout key stage 2 in a small group intervention.

At the end of year one, your child will complete a statutory phonics assessment which is a combination of real words and pseudo words (made up words). The aim of the activities are to assess how your child uses their knowledge of phonics to read the words. You will be notified of your child's result and if your child does not achieve the benchmark grade, further intensive support will be given in year two.



We would recommend that parents access the phonics play website if they wish to support their children at home. This website provides a range of interactive games for children during each of the stages.

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

