

During Nursery, children learn Phase One of phonics before moving onto Phase Two in Reception. Our Phase One phonics sessions teach children the vital skills required in preparation for Phase Two.

- Phase One concentrates on the development of children's speaking and listening, laying the foundations for further phonological skills and understanding which start in Phase Two. This first stage teaches children to explore sounds and distinguish the sounds around them, ready to begin blending and segmenting sounds.

### Phase One

Whilst children may well be ready to start learning specific letter sounds, without the crucial learning and development of Phase One, the foundations of their phonological understanding may not be secure which can result in 'gaps'.

Nursery children need to hear different sounds and distinguish between sounds (phonics and environmental) to help them so they can tune into the sounds for reading and writing later on. In Nursery, we follow a structured approach using techniques from the Read Write Inc programme to capture the children's interest with phonics. It encouraged them to build visual images of letters and learn rhymes to help them learn correct letter formation.

As children begin to be introduced to letter sounds, it is important that they experience them in many different forms and across a variety of activities and contexts.

Here are the phonics the children have been explicitly taught so far, including the rhymes for the sounds:

**m** Maisie mountain mountain

**a** Around the apple down the leaf

**s** Slither down the snake

**d** Round his bottom, up his tall neck, down to his feet.

**t** Down the tower, across the tower (don't forget the steps)

In school we teach the children to make the 'pure' sound - please encourage this at home (taking care not to add 'uh' onto the sound. E.g. m sounds 'mmm' rather than 'muh'. This is crucial for them to be able to blend accurately. Please follow this link for examples of the 'pure sounds':

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=od8RDFP1KJM&list=PL-2On6Oxkv9P8QBUGiOCsbOrqaZm1\\_wC9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=od8RDFP1KJM&list=PL-2On6Oxkv9P8QBUGiOCsbOrqaZm1_wC9)

During letter formation, writing and mark making remember-

- Ensure a good pencil grip (Information on this is available on the school website)
- Encourage children to say the rhyme as they write the sound to help with letter formation
- Model the correct direction of letter formation without holding onto their hand
- Some children may lift their pencil off the page to complete each movement for instance a, taking their pencil off to go "down the leaf". They need to be reminded when pencil comes off paper and when it is one continuous movement. For most letters, the pencil doesn't lift until the letter is complete.

Try and give your child lots of different opportunities to write these sounds - in different places and in different ways - large, small, neat, messy, on a line, all over a page, chalkboards and paper. The more creative they are the more engaged they will be in their learning. I will put the writing rhymes they know and a new one each week on their daily challenge (Tuesday- Mark Making)

Phonics Play is a great interactive phonics-based website. It is currently offering free access at home. Please make the most of this resource. The children regularly use this resource in Nursery so will be familiar with some of the games.

PHONICS PLAY <https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

If I can be of any more help please email.

In response to many parents requesting further guidance on phonics, I will be posting a link to Mr Thorne's Phonics on You Tube each week with a new phonics sound to focus on at home. The clips are short and give a great introduction to the new sound

To ensure children learn at an appropriate pace and embed their new phonic sound we ask that parents;

- Learn only the new sound for the week- new link each week.
- Encourage children to practise the sounds they already know
- Practice hearing the sounds in words
- Look for the new sound in books (play sounds detectives!)
- Follow the link for pronunciation- stop at the new sound

This clip is in the correct order they would be learning their sounds in Nursery. Please watch it often. Encourage children to join in alongside- STOP the clip on the sound of the week.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=od8RDFP1KJM&list=PL-2On6Oxkv9P8QBUGiOCsbOrgaZm1\\_wC9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=od8RDFP1KJM&list=PL-2On6Oxkv9P8QBUGiOCsbOrgaZm1_wC9)

In addition to the weekly sound clip, short 'Speed Challenges' will be posted every other day to encourage children to use, hear, write and read their new sound. This will help embed their knowledge.

- Learning one sound a week slowly will embed their phonics skills. Rushing though will only develop gaps in learning.

Slow and steady wins the race!!!

**TELL ME**  
*and I forget,*  
**TEACH ME**  
*and I may remember,*  
**INVOLVE ME**  
*and I learn.*

~ Benjamin Franklin



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New sound,  
link and  
challenge  
posted  
separately.  
Enjoy and  
PLEASE be  
creative and  
have fun!!!!