



Phonics at Heltwate School

What is Phonics?

Phonics is taught in schools to help children learn to read. In Phonic lessons children are taught the phonemes (units of sounds) in words. There are 44 phonemes/ sounds but more than one way of writing some of the sounds c, k, and ck. Phonic lessons teach the sounds and the different ways of writing them in a particular order. Teaching the phonemes and their graphemes (they way they are written down) helps children merge the sounds together to be able to read and to hear the sounds in words to segment them to spell and write.

Fairy words

Fairy words (Known as High Frequency Words) are common words that appear lots in texts. They are a mixture of words which are decodable children(can use their Phonic skills to read and write) and tricky/ common exception words.

Tricky Troll words

Tricky Troll words are words that cannot be sounded out easily. They are also known as 'Common Exception Words'. These words need to be taught as whole words as sight recognition words. Some examples are: the, to, me

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At Heltwate School we use the scheme, 'StoryTime Phonics' which was introduced in September 2018. Story Time Phonics' is a scheme written by Michelle Larby who is also known as, 'The Phonics Fairy'. It follows all requirements set out in the document, 'Letters and Sounds' which all schools use but create learning opportunities through hands-on, fun activities. The children will be introduced to sounds in videos and will be read stories of well-known books each lesson with activities to develop their understanding of the sounds. These activities include tap dancing to learn the /t/ sound and writing in chalk in a cave for the /a-e/ sound.

Children who are not yet ready for formal phonic lessons have 'Sensory Story' lessons based on some key books from the scheme. The children therefore then have an opportunity to hear high quality texts above their reading level in a fun, engaging and interactive way.

A typical Phonic lesson

1. Introduce children to a well-known high quality story which links to the Phoneme (sound)
2. Teach children how the sound is written down (the Grapheme) and developing forming the letter in pencil, pens, paint and other sensory materials linked to the text
3. Teach children the 'Caption Action' the words and actions that link the story and phoneme together in a memorable way
4. Develop knowledge of the sound in words to support reading and writing through a range of different activities.

The Heltwate School website has a link to all the staff sharing the sounds and 'Caption Actions to develop your child's understanding of Phonics at home as well as school.

Phase 2 sounds

s

a

t

p

i

n

m

d

g

o

c

k

ck

e

r

h

b

f ff

l ll

ss

u

Phase 3 sounds

j

v

w

x

y

z

qu

ch

sh

th

ng

ai

ee

igh

oa

oo

oo

ar

or

ur

ow

oi

ear

air

ure

er

Phase 5 sounds

ue

au

ph

wh

e-e/ey

ou

ir

ay

a-e

ea

i-e

ow

o-e

ew

u-e

aw

oy

are