



## Phonics and Reading

### Phonics

Phonics is recommended as the first strategy that children should be taught in helping them to learn to read. **At Peel Hall we use the Letter and Sounds scheme.** It runs alongside other teaching methods such as Guided Reading (See below) and Shared Reading to help children develop all the other vital reading skills and hopefully give them a real love of reading

### What is phonics?

Words are made up from small units of sound called phonemes. Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word. This helps children to learn to read words and to spell words

In phonics lessons children are taught three main things:

### **GPCs**

They are taught GPCs. This stands for grapheme phoneme correspondences. This simply means that they are taught all the phonemes in the English language and ways of writing them down. These sounds are taught in a particular order. The first sounds to be taught are **s, a, t, p.**

## **Blending**

Children are taught to be able to blend. This is when children say the sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sounds together until they can hear what the word is. This skill is vital in learning to read.

## **Segmenting**

Children are also taught to segment. This is the opposite of blending. Children are able to say a word and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up. This skill is vital in being able to spell words.

## **How is phonics taught at Peel Hall?**

Letters and Sounds aims to build children's speaking and listening skills as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting by the age of five, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers by age seven.

There are six overlapping phases in Letters and Sounds.

The table below is a summary based on the Letters and Sounds guidance for Practitioners and Teachers.

Phase	Phonic Knowledge and Skills
<i>Phase One</i> (Nursery/Reception)	Activities are divided into seven aspects, including environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and finally oral blending and segmenting.
<i>Phase Two</i> (Reception) up to 6 weeks	Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each. Blending sounds together to make words. Segmenting words into their separate sounds. Beginning to read simple captions.
<i>Phase Three</i> (Reception) up to 12 weeks	The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Graphemes such as ch, oo, th representing the remaining phonemes not covered by single letters. Reading captions, sentences and questions. On completion of this phase, children will have learnt the "simple code", i.e. one grapheme for each phoneme in the English language.
<i>Phase Four</i> (Reception) 4 to 6 weeks	No new grapheme-phoneme correspondences are taught in this phase. Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump.
<i>Phase Five</i> (Throughout Year 1)	Now we move on to the "complex code". Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know.
<i>Phase Six</i> (Throughout Year 2 and beyond)	Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters etc.

## **Guided reading**

### **What is guided reading?**

Guided reading is an instructional approach that involves an adult working with a small group of children who demonstrate similar reading behaviours and can all read similar levels of texts. The text is easy enough for children to read fluently but offers challenges and opportunities for problem solving. Texts are chosen that help children expand children's reading strategies.

### **What is the purpose of guided reading?**

Books that children can read with about 90 percent accuracy are chosen. Children can then understand and enjoy the text because it's accessible to them through their own strategies. During guided reading the children focus on meaning. They might use problem-solving strategies to figure out words they don't know, deal with difficult sentence structure and understand concepts or ideas they have never before encountered in print.

### **Guided reading at Peel Hall**

Guided reading happens every day in class with groups of children. Three times a week Years 2 - 6 are also split into groups and assigned to an adult. Groups work in various places around the school to take part in guided reading.

**When does this happen?**

Year Two

Monday - Thursday 1:05 - 1:35pm

Years 3 and 4

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:05 - 9:35

Years 5 and 6

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 - 10:30