

Phonics at St Blasius Primary Academy Primary School

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to:

- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;
- identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'; and
- blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

At St Blasius Academy, we believe that phonics is an important part of children's reading development. We teach phonics every day as part of our English provision. Phonics is taught in short, daily, focussed 10/15 minute sessions in class and enhanced through our continuous provision. Children are assessed regularly to monitor their progress.

At the end of Year 1 children take the Phonics Screening Check as set out by the government. If children do not pass this test then they retake it in Year 2.

Parents/ Carers

Parents/ carers can help children's phonic development by practising the sounds that they are learning and encouraging them to sound out words carefully.

Phase 1 phonics is generally taught in good early year's settings and at the beginning of Reception year. Focus on listening skills, sound discrimination, alliteration, rhyming words, oral blending and segmenting.

Phase 2 phonics is generally taught at the beginning of Reception year.

Focus sounds - s a t p I n m d g o c k ck e u r h b f ff l ll ss

Phase 3 phonics is generally taught in the middle / towards the end of Reception year.

Focus sounds - j v w x y z zz qu ch sh th ng ai ee igh oa oo oo ar or ur ow oi ear air ure er)

Phase 4 phonics is generally taught at the end of Reception /beginning of Year 1.

Focus - consonant blends

Phase 5 phonics is generally taught in Y1.

Focus on new graphemes as in - ay (day) ou (out) ie (tie) ea (east) oy (boy) ir (girl) ue (blue) aw (saw) wh (when) ph (photo) ew (new) oe (toe) au (Paul) Split digraphs a-e (make) e-e (these) i-e (like) o-e (home) u-e (rule) New pronunciations for known graphemes: i (fin, find), o (hot, cold), c (cat, cent), g (got, giant), u (but, put (in south of England), ow (cow, blow), ie (tie, field), ea (eat, bread), er (farmer, her), a (hat, what), y (yes, by, very), ch (chin, school, chef), ou (out, shoulder, could, you)

Phase 6 is generally taught in Y2.

Focus - Spelling rules - past tense words, adding suffixes/prefixes to make longer words, tricky 'bits' in words and use of memory strategies.

Our top tips:

- ❖ Make it fun and don't overdo it. You do not have to read whole books in one go! Talk about the pictures, pick out the characters and setting, make predictions, read the text together, see who can be the first to find a tricky word)
- ❖ Keep it short. We recommend 10 minutes a day.
- ❖ Make sure your child sees you reading. You are their best role model so show them you enjoy reading.
- ❖ Expose your child to print whenever and wherever you can! Hunt for text and phonemes in your local environment (at the

supermarket, in street names, on cereal packets, on road signs, etc).

- ❖ Remember children love games, races and competitions.

Fun = engagement = learning!

- ❖ Please do not have a battle! You know your children, if they are too tired at the end of the day then experiment with different times in your day. Find a time that works for you and make sure you are both relaxed.