



Churchfields Primary School

Early Reading and Phonics

We aim to teach high quality phonics to ensure that all children at Churchfields have the best start in reading and writing.

Phonics is the beginning of the children's understanding and skill development in learning to read and write. In order to read and understand texts children must learn to recognise/decode, the words on the page.

Good quality phonic teaching equips children with the skills of word recognition and decoding which enable them to read fluently.

At Churchfields, we have adopted the *Jolly Phonics* programme for our teaching of phonics and early reading. Children begin their learning with *Jolly Phonics* in Nursery and it is continued through Reception and Key Stage 1. An overview of the progression can be found at Appendix 1.

Jolly Phonics

Jolly Phonics is a systematic synthetic phonics scheme that teaches children the alphabetic code of English. In the first nine weeks or so, the children are taught the 42 letter sounds, how to blend them to read words and how to cope with the first few irregular keywords. At this point the children can attempt to read books for themselves.

1. Learning the letter sounds

The main 42 sounds of English are taught – one sound every day and in the *Jolly Phonics* order.

1. s a t l p n
2. c k e h r m d
3. g o u l f b
4. ai j oa ie ee or
5. z w ng v oo oo
6. y x ch sh th th
7. quo u oi ue era r

A multisensory method is used to introduce the children to the letter sounds. There is a storyline, action and 'Sound Sheet' for each sound. By doing an action associated with the sound, e.g rub tum and say "mmmmm" for the /m/ sound, the children remember it more easily.

Repetition takes place daily in order for children to become fluent in knowing the letter sounds. This is important for them to blend the sounds together efficiently when starting to read.

Some sounds, digraphs are represented by two letters. Children need to recognise digraphs in words, e.g the 'ng' in 'strong'.

Parents are kept informed which sound is being taught through home learning tasks, messages home and links to video clips.

2. Learning Letter Formation

As the letter sounds are introduced, the children are shown exactly how to form each letter correctly. Children are also taught to hold their pencil correctly at this stage.

3. Blending

As well as learning the sounds, children are taught how to blend them together to hear a word. This teaching starts from the first day. The aim is to enable children to hear the word when the teacher says the sound, e.g 'd-o-g'.

Once the children can hear the word when an adult says the sounds they are ready to try and blend words for themselves.

After the letter sounds have been taught and children can read simple, regular words, they will start taking home orange level books. These books give opportunity for children to practise the sounds they have been taught.

4. Segmenting - Identifying Sounds in Words

It is essential that children can hear the individual sounds in words, especially for writing. Once a child can hear the sounds in words and knows one way of writing each sound, they can write independently. Initially, children will not spell accurately but use their phonic understanding and their writing can be read. Accurate spelling develops gradually from reading books, knowing the alternative vowel sounds and following a spelling scheme.

5. Tricky Words

When children know about 18 letter sounds and have been blending regular words, they begin to learn the tricky words. Tricky words are words that cannot always be worked out by blending, e.g 'was' has an /o/ sound in the middle instead of an /a/ sound.

