

PHONICS – A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Phonic teaching is an important part of literacy skills. At Reffley Academy we aim to teach children fluent word reading skills and provide a good foundation in spelling.

What is phonic teaching?

Phonic teaching involves showing children the sounds of letters and how these sounds can be blended together to make words. E.g. the word 'cat' is a decodable word because the letter sounds can be blended together.

c - a - t → cat

At Reffley Academy, we teach phonics using Success for All Phonics. This is organised into six phonics phases, which your child progresses through as their reading ability improves. Phases 1-4 are taught in Nursery and Reception, Phase 5 in Year 1 and Phase 6 in Year 2, however this can fluctuate depending on progress and teachers will adapt accordingly.

Phase 1 (starting in Nursery) Children learn rhymes, keep rhythms and start to relate letter sounds to words, e.g. b for bag.

Phase 2 Children learn initial letter sounds and build 3 letter words (with the use of sound books).

Phase 3 Children learn all 44 phonemes and blend sounds to read words (with the use of sound books).

Phase 4 Children blend consonants together to read difficult words, e.g. blue, grab.

Phase 5 Children learn how to spell letter sounds in more than one way, e.g. rain, day, make.

Phase 6 Children learn how to spell word specific spellings, e.g. turned, beautiful, shopping.

Your child will be assessed and placed within a phonic phase group within the class setting. When your child has mastered a phonic phase they will be moved to the next group. They will continue to do this until they get to Phase 6.

How will phonics be taught?

At Reffley Academy your child will have a daily 20 minute phonic session. The session will be split into four sections:

Revisit & review the previous sound and word building.

Teach a new phonic skill.

Practise the new skill.

Apply in different situations, e.g. Reading in a sentence or writing the word in a sentence.

How can you help your child?

We aim for phonic teaching to be a fun way of learning to read and spell.

Phonic teaching is applied to all lessons within school to further promote the children's reading and writing skills.

We would like you to help apply the children's phonic skills when reading books or when writing at home. **The more practise the better!**

Alongside teaching phonics we will teach the children to read decodable words and tricky words. Please practise these at home.

Decodable words = the letter sounds can be blended together e.g. p - a - n → pan

Tricky words = individual letter sounds do not create the word e.g. the, was, are.

Thank you for your continued support.