

Phonics



What is Phonics at Denham Green?

- * Phonics is a 20 minute lesson taught daily in small groups.
- * In this time your child learns to pronounce, read and spell new sounds.
- * They will also learn new common words (high frequency words).
- * Phonics starts in reception and is taught throughout Key Stage 1, however children learn at different rates and some children may continue their learning of phonics beyond Key Stage 1.

Saying the sounds correctly

- * It is vital that your child learns to say each sound correctly. We call this a pure sound. The following YouTube Clip will show you how to pronounce some of the sounds.

Letters and Sounds

- * At Denham Green Academy we use a phonics program called Letters and Sounds.
- * Letters and Sounds is divided into 6 phases with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of the children's previous learning.

Phase 1

- * In phase 1 teachers plan activities that will help children to listen attentively to sounds around them, such as the sounds of their toys and to sounds in spoken language.

Phase 2

- * In this phase children will continue practising what they have learned from phase 1.
- * They will also be taught the sounds (phonemes) for a number of letters (graphemes).
- * Children will learn to make and read vc and cvc words using the new sounds they have learned.
- * V- vowel
- * C- consonant

Phase 3

- * In phase 3 children will learn more graphemes, most of which are made of 2 letters, for example 'oa' and in boat.
- * Children will learn to spell and read cvc words containing sounds with 2 or more letters, for example, tail, week, right, soap.
- * Children will practice the new sounds by reading and spelling nonsense words with the new sounds, for example, waip, teeg, hain.
- * Children will also learn new common words (high frequency words).

Phase 4

- * In phase 4 children continue to practice previously learned graphemes and phonemes and learn how to read and write cvcc words: tent, damp, toast, chimp.
- * Tent – t- consonant, e- vowel, n- consonant, t- consonant.
- * Children will learn to read and write ccvc words: stem, spot, trim, slot, bright.
- * Bright- b- consonant, r- consonant, igh- vowel, t- consonant.
- * Children will also learn to read new common words (high frequency words).

Phase 5

- * Children will learn new sounds.
- * Children will revisit sounds from previous phases and learn alternative sounds that they make, for example, down and low.
- * Children will learn alternative spellings of the same sound, for example, fox, puff and phonics.
- * Children will also learn new common words (high frequency words).

Phase 6

- * As children enter phase 6 they should know most sounds. Spelling should show a secure knowledge of sounds taught so far, but it is common for spellings to lag behind reading. At this stage children are now beginning to read to learn and read for enjoyment.
- * Children will begin to learn memory strategies for remembering how to spell new or tricky words.
- * Children learn how to add suffixes, shorten words (contractions) and the difference between verb tenses.

Spellings

- * Children are given spellings each week from Year 1 onwards.
- * The spellings should be practised throughout the week at home if possible. Children will have a spelling test in school the following week.
- * Please practise these spellings with your child at home as it will really help them with their writing skills.

Book bands

- * Children are given a book band (colour) to read at home.
- * This is decided by the teacher through assessment of their word recognition and their comprehension.
- * It is important that children can understand what they are reading, and their comprehension has been assessed, before moving on to a more challenging book band.
- * The book bands are on the website.

Phonics booklet

- * We have a very detailed phonics booklet on our website.
- * It gives lots of information about each phase and ways you can help at home.
- * We have also provided some handouts with the sounds and high frequency words for each phase.

Feedback Form

- * Please make sure you have signed in.
- * We would really appreciate it if you could fill in a feedback form as it will help us to improve.