

## Phonics teaching at Great Crosby

Here at Great Crosby Catholic Primary School phonics is taught daily to all children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One. We use the Letters and Sounds programme together with the Liverpool Phonics scheme to teach children the letters of the alphabet and their matching sounds. We sometimes use songs and actions from Jolly Phonics to help us remember our sounds.

### **What is phonics?**

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

- \* Recognise the sounds that individual letters make
- \* Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make-such as 'sh' or 'oo'
- \* Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word

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

The children are taught to read words by blending, which means pushing all the sounds together to make a word. The children are taught to spell words by segmenting, which means sounding out words and writing down the sounds they can hear.

By the end of Reception children are expected to be secure in Phase Three. By the end of Year One children are expected to be secure in Phase Five. When finishing Key Stage One, most children at Great Crosby should be secure in Phase Six. This phase moves away from learning sounds and focuses on spelling rules and patterns and we will use the Liverpool Spelling strategy document to support the teaching of spelling across Key stage two.

### **Why phonics?**

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way-starting with the easiest sounds and progressing to the most complex-it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read. It is particularly helpful for children aged 5 to 7 years old. Almost all children who receive good teaching of phonics will learn the skills that they need to tackle new words. Children can go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently, and read for enjoyment. (Department for Education)

Here are some links to information and websites that you may find useful to help you support your child in their early reading and writing skills.

### **What do the Phonics terms mean?**

*Phoneme:* The smallest unit of sound in a word, e.g. c/a/t, sh/o/p, t/ea/ch/er.

*Grapheme:* A letter or group of letter representing one sound, e.g. sh, igh, t.

*Clip Phonemes:* when teaching sounds ,always clip them short 'mmmm' not 'muh'

*Digraph:* Two letters which together make one sound, e.g. sh, ch, ee, ph, oa.

*Split digraph:* Two letters, which work as a pair, split, to represent one sound, e.g. a-e as in cake, or i-e as in kite.

*Trigraph:* three letters which together make one sound but cannot be separated into smaller phonemes, e.g. igh as in light, ear as in heard, tch as in watch.

*Segmentation:* means hearing the individual phonemes within a word – for instance the word 'crash' consists of four phonemes: 'c – r – a – sh'. In order to spell this word, a child must segment it into its component phonemes and choose a grapheme to represent each phoneme.

*Blending:* means merging the individual phonemes together to pronounce a word. In order to read an unfamiliar word, a child must recognise ('sound out') each grapheme, not each letter (e.g. 'th-i-n' not 't-h-i-n'), and then mergethe phonemes together to make the word.

*Mnemonics:* a device for memorising and recalling something, such as a hand action of a drill to remember the phoneme /d/.

*Adjacent consonants:* two or three letters with discrete sounds, which are blended together e.g. str, cr, tr, gr. (previously consonant clusters).

*Comprehension:* understanding of language whether it is spoken or written.

### **Articulation of Phonemes:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW\\_v-1s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s)

At the end of Year One all the children in the country take a test called a Phonics Screening. They have to read 40 real and nonsense words. We call the nonsense words 'Alien words' and the children practice reading them every day.

## Letters and Sounds: Principles and Practice

Here are some useful websites to help you support your child with their early reading and writing. If you are unsure of which phase your child is working within then please speak to your child's class teacher.



<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/Phase2Menu.htm>



<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>



<http://ictgames.com/forestPhonics/forestPhonicsOnline/index.html>



[http://www.ictgames.com/dinosaurEggs\\_phonics/](http://www.ictgames.com/dinosaurEggs_phonics/)



<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>