

# Letters and Sounds

How we will be teaching  
your child to read and  
write.

St Cuthbert's Catholic  
Primary & Nursery School

Foundation 2



## **Letters and Sounds:**

- Is a 'synthetic phonics' approach to teaching reading and writing.
- Every school in England and Wales now has to teach reading and writing using synthetic phonics.
- Involves teaching children to listen for the sounds they hear in words, to recognise the letters that represent those sounds and to recall that information when they are writing.



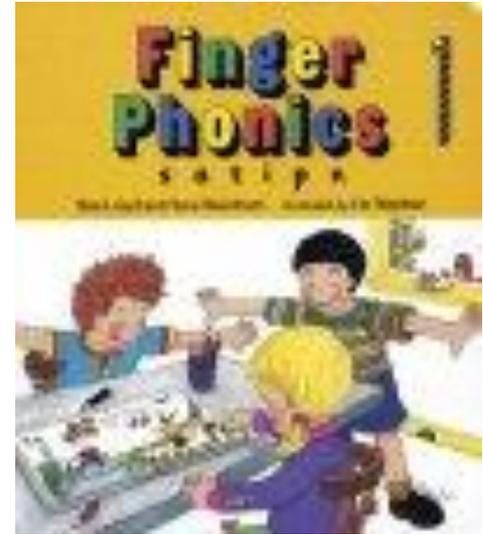
## 'Phase 2':

- A group of letters is introduced in sessions across each week (eg this week – s, a, t, p) – this may seem quick but learning a group of letters in quick succession enables the children to start to read and spell words from the very first sessions.
- When a new letter is introduced, the children learn both the letter sound AND the letter name.
- In order to help the children to blend sounds together and read words more easily they are taught 'pure' sounds.



## Phonics

- Each day the children will be taught a new sound
- Jolly Phonics (a story accompanies the new sound along with a song to encourage children with different learning styles to learn the sound.
- Letter formation
- Sound books -activities to do at home



## **Writing:**

- Writing forms a big part of the letters and sounds scheme and the children are taught the correct letter formation whenever a new letter is introduced.
- We do a lot of work on whiteboards during the sessions so that the children can practise how to write the letters.



## **'Tricky' words:**

- Although the children learn to spell lots of words phonetically, by 'sounding out', there are some words that they will learn to recall by sight.
- We refer to these as 'tricky' words with the children and they too are taught during the letters and sounds sessions.



We begin the reading process by introducing the children to 'zigzag' books. The books do not have words so that the children can story tell by using the visual images. This encourages children to link the idea that illustrations are very important when reading. As the children become more confident in story telling we will then introduce them to books with the illustrations and text. The children can then make links with the pictures and words. A very important reading cue.



## **Bookbags:**

- After the half term, your children will receive their 'sound' book.
- Bookbags can be bought from school for £5.00.
- When we feel the children are ready they will also be given a reading book to take home.
  - It is important that the children bring their bookbags in to school every day.
  - We aim to listen to the children read/look at their sound books twice a week.





- Some Reception children will have the opportunity to take part in the programme at sometime during the year.
- Each group will consist of maximum four children.
- Looking at the picture.
- Talking about what is happening in the picture.
- Reading from left to right.
- Reading from the top of the page to the bottom.
- 1:1 correspondence
- Learning a new word and how to write it.



# **Things to do at home!**

Parents play a critical role in helping their children develop not only the ability to read, but also an enjoyment of reading.

## ***Turn off the t.v.***

- Limiting your family's television viewing time.

## ***Teach by example.***

- Books, newspapers and magazines around your house.
- You can't over-estimate the value of modelling.

## ***Read together (Bedtime story).***

- Books can really open the lines of communication between parent and child.

## ***Hit the library.***

- Try finding library books about current issues or interests in your family's or child's life, and then reading them together.



Sharing storybooks with your child is a great way to get them interested in books in general – for example, you could play games like ‘I spy’ and search for particular words in their favourite book.

General listening activities will help your child to ‘tune in’ to the sounds that they can hear, for example:

- Listening Walks
- Nursery Rhymes and songs
- ‘Metal Mike’



## **Thank you for coming!**

We hope this meeting has been useful – if you ever have ANY queries or questions about your child's 'homework', please let us know.

