



Phonics Information Evening

Thursday 4 October 2018

At Victoria School we plan sequences of lessons using Letters and Sounds. When delivering Phonics lessons the teachers at Victoria use Jolly Phonics resources as a visual aid to help children to learn new sounds.

Terminology

Phoneme - a sound as it is said

Grapheme - a sound as it is written

Digraph- two letters that work together to make the same sound (ay in play, ee in green, oo in book, oo in zoo, ow in snow)

Trigraph - three letters that work together to make the same sound (igh in night, air in fair)

Split digraph - two letters that work together to make the same sound, separated by another letter (a-e in cake, i-e in smile, o-e on home)

Letter name - the names of the letters as we would say them in the alphabet

Segmenting and blending

In order to blend the sounds to form words, your child must first learn to recognise the segments that make up the word. With Jolly Phonics, they are taught to break up each word into the phonemes that form the whole word. Blending is a vital tool in the journey to fluent reading. Your child is taught to merge the various letter sounds that form a particular word together until they can hear and recognise the word. Your child can start to practise this skill as soon as they have learnt the first 3 letter sounds s, a and t. This skill will continue to develop as your child begins their journey to fluent reading.

Tricky words

As with all things in the English language, rules are made to be broken. We tackle words with irregular spellings separately so your child learns to recognise them without getting confused.

we	me	be	was	no	go
my	you	they	her	all	are
said	so	she	he	have	like
some	come	were	there	little	one
they	all	are	do	when	out
what	my	her	please	once	friends
oh	their	people	Mr	Mrs	looked
called	asked	water	where	who	again
thought	through	work	mouse	many	laughed
because	different	any	eyes		

Nursery

The first lesson in Phonics is teaching children to recognise and differentiate between different sounds. This typically starts by asking children to listen to sounds that you can hear, such as the sounds that animals make or sounds you hear when you go outside.

As schooling progresses children are then taught simple single letter sounds from the alphabet.

Reception and Year 1

Revisit/Review	Flashcards to practise previously taught phonemes.
Teach	Introduce a new phoneme.
Practise	Practise saying and writing the new phoneme.
Apply	Read or write the sound in words, sentences, labels and other activities.

Phonics Screening Check

The Phonics screening check is a compulsory assessment that all children in Year 1 in England must take. It is used to assess a student's phonic decoding skills. The often confusing thing about the screening check is that half of the words that children are expected to read are 'nonsense words', alien words that have no meaning. This is so that the check tests a child's ability to phonetically decode words and to ensure they don't just know the word in the check already. The aim of the check isn't to test how many words a child can read, but to ensure children have the decoding skills they need to learn new words in the future.

Year 2

In Year 2 the children will still receive Phonics lessons but the focus changes to ensure that children are selecting the correct spellings of the different sounds they have been taught.

Children who did not pass the Phonics Screening Check in Year 1 have to be retested at the end of Year 2 and are supported throughout the year to hopefully ensure that they reach the necessary standard.

Tips for supporting your children at home

- It is important for a child to learn lower case or small letters rather than capital letters at first.
- When you talk about letters to your child, remember to use the letter sounds rather than their names (as we would say them in the alphabet).
- Practising phonics does not have to be a written exercise, verbal practice is just as important
- When reading with your children get them to point out the sounds they have learnt in school that week or previously
- Children can practise writing sounds in lots of different ways. For example, in a sand tray, with water on the patio, with paint, in playdough, with chalk outside and with spaghetti
- Make a set of flashcards with sounds and tricky words on
- Let your child be the teacher and teach you the sounds they have learnt in school
- Read regularly with your child