

Phonics and
Reading at
John Ray Infants

What is phonics?

- Phonics is how we teach your child to read and write. We look at individual sounds (e.g. s, a, t) as well as sounds made up of 2 or more letters (e.g. sh, ai, ee). The children learn to hear, recognise and read these, and then to blend them together to read words, and segment them to spell words.
- We also look at using these sounds when we are writing and spelling.
- The phonics scheme we use in John Ray Infants is called Little Wandle Letters and Sounds.

We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised
A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



What are the important blocks of phonics?

- Blending/segmenting – children need to be able to blend orally before they move onto recognising written sounds
- This is because children need to be taught that words are made up of units of speech sounds
- Development of this understanding requires direct instruction, modelling, and lots of practice opportunities for breaking words apart into their sounds and putting those sounds back together to form words
- If we can spend time on this early on, it will make blending and segmenting with letters easier

Syllables

- First of all we can look at breaking words into syllables. This could be done by clapping out the syllables – e.g. pen-cil, snow-man, wat-er bot-tle or names, e.g. Jack has 1 syllable, Li-ly has 2
- You can help at home by clapping out words in syllables, or getting your child to count how many syllables they can hear

Segmenting/Blending

- We can then work on breaking down the phonemes in a word (segmenting) and blending them back together (blending)
- Segmenting – pan – p-a-n, coat – c-oa-t, sheep – sh-ee-p
- Blending – p-a-n – pan, c-oa-t – coat, sh-ee-p, sheep
- We can use fingers to show the phonemes as we sound them out
- This does not have to be with CVC words, could be longer words, and could be included as part of an instruction to see if the children can hear it
- E.g. – put your c-oa-t on!

Segmenting/Blending

- How to help at home
- We will send home some sets of pictures for you to blend and segment with your child. You can model this first or do it together.



My turn – c-a-t,
cat!
Your turn...



My turn – p-i-g,
pig!
Your turn...



My turn – b-o-i-l,
boil!
Your turn...

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds

- Little Wandle is an accredited scheme to teach phonics which we use across the school
- We have a very precise structure and order in which to teach the sounds and words to the children, and there is a lot of emphasis on **revisiting** and practicing previous teaching to embed what they have learned – make it automatic!
- This also applies to the reading – they will spend time with the same book to practice the skills.

Phase 2 sounds

S s s	T t t	P p p	N n n	M m m
D d d	G g g	C c c	K k k	ck ck
R r r	H h h	B b b	F f f	L l l
J j j	V v v	W w w	X x x	Y y y
Z z z	qu qu	th th	sh sh	ch ch
ng ng	nk nk			
A a a	E e e	I i i	O o o	U u u

Learning sounds

- How to help at home:
- When we have taught a set of sounds, we will send home some words containing those sounds. You can use these to blend the sounds together to read the words

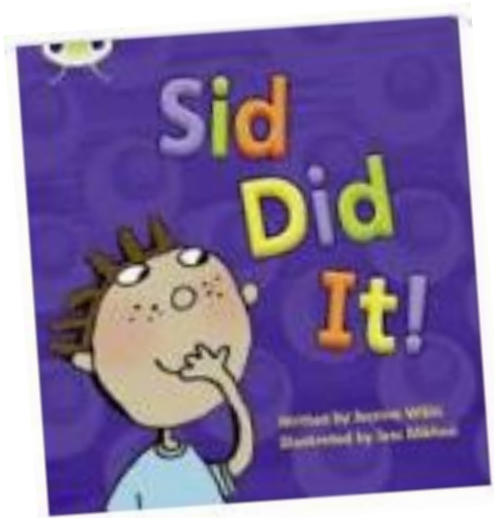
sat	pat
man	map

My turn – s-a-t,
sat!
Your turn...

Can you find the
word m-a-n?

Applying sounds

- How to help at home:
- When your child is confident at blending those sounds, we will then send home a reading book, that will focus on those particular sounds. This means they can apply and practice what they have learnt in school.



Can you find the sound s?

Let's sound this word out together
- s-i-d

Who is Sid?

Applying sounds

- How to help at home:
- Each week, the children will have a focus book in class. They will have the chance to read this book at least twice in class, and will then bring this book home on a Friday to read with you.
- They might be able to read the book, or seem to remember it off by heart – this is ok! We're developing fluent readers who have confidence in what they are reading. We want you to practice with them at home

Love to Read!

- As well as making sure all our children learn to read, we also want them to develop a love of reading – reading has such an impact on everything they do.
- We will give the children a chance to choose a library book each week to bring home to share with you.
- Read anything! Favourite books, comics, signs, menus, labels... the more you read the more you know!
- Reading at least 3 times a week at home will make all the difference – even just a page or a familiar book
- Show what you've read in the reading record – sign and date please

Word Reading

- As well as our sounds, we also learn 'tricky words'. These are sent to trick us! We teach the children the 'tricky part', and learn to sound them out.
- E.g. 'said'

said

Word Reading

- How to help at home:
- Each week, we will send home the new words we have learnt in their reading records.
- Practice reading these and spotting them around in books you share.
- If they are getting whizzy at reading, try learning to spell the words.

Home Learning

- We will put the new sounds and the words we are learning each week onto Tapestry.
- If you have any questions about the words or how to say a particular sound, or about blending the sounds, please come and see us at the classroom door to ask. Reading Bookmarks – ideas for other activities alongside reading – these will come home alongside books soon
- Little Wandle For Parents – this has videos on how to say each of the sounds, and how we teach them – but always feel free to come and ask too!
- <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Main points...

- Please read with and to your child as often as you can
- Practice at home – blending, segmenting, reading words and reading books
- We want children to be confident and fluent – the book they bring home won't be a 'challenge' for them
- Read anything!
- Always ask us if you have any questions or concerns