



## Phonics information - Step 3



Over the next half term we will continue introduce your child to four letter sounds a week. These sounds will have two letters which make one sound (digraph). They will be learning to say, recognise, read and write the letters. They will be learning cursive letter formation and how to join the two letters. (Please see letter formation sheet stuck into the home school communication book). Towards the end of the term the children will also learn some trigraphs (where three letters say one sound).

We will continue to put the sounds in their phonics pack. We will also include a help sheet that details the action the children learn to associate with the sound and how to say the sound. Don't forget there are lots of videos on YouTube that help demonstrate the correct way of saying the sound for example, Mr Thorn does phonics - how to learn the letters and sounds of the alphabet.

Some children will learn these sounds quickly and some will take longer. When supporting your child try to keep the session short and stress free. Often children will recognise these first outside of a word and need support to recognise them within words. When sounding out words children should not sound out the letters of a digraph or trigraph separately. Please try to support you child in recognising these sounds when they come across them in their reading books.

The children have regular opportunities throughout the day to read words with the sounds they are learning and to try to make words using magnetic letters, cubes and through writing. We are also supporting them in building an increasing sight vocabulary for high frequency words. We have stuck a list of the first 100 reception key words into their reading record for your information. Some of these words are tricky words that cannot be sounded out using phonics. Once your child can read them all the next challenge is to learn to spell them from memory.

Learning to write and form the letters correctly is as important as learning to read the sounds. Once your child is confident with their sounds you can support them further by giving them opportunities to write for different purposes. For example could they help you write shopping lists, invitations or celebration cards.

Please don't hesitate to speak to us in person or by email should you have any questions.

Our home learning policy states that Reception aged children are expected to spend 15 minutes in total per day on their sound and reading learning at home.

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