

# Phonics Information Morning

---

September 2024

# What's coming up

---

- The vocabulary
- The sounds
- Twinkl SSP
- The levels
- The actions
- The books

## Phonemes

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound that signals a contrast in meaning. For example:

- the difference between the words 'gap' and 'cap' is the difference between the phonemes /g/ and /k/ at the start of each word<sup>1</sup>
- the difference between 'fine' and 'fight' is the difference between the phonemes /n/ and /t/ at the end
- the difference between 'stale' and 'stile' is the difference between the phonemes /ae/ and /igh/ in the middle of each word.

English has about 20 vowel phonemes and 24 consonant phonemes.<sup>2</sup>

# Articulation of phonemes

---

- [https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/BqhXUW\\_v-1s?playlist=BqhXUW\\_v-1s&autoplay=1&iv\\_load\\_policy=3&loop=1&modestbranding=1&start=](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/BqhXUW_v-1s?playlist=BqhXUW_v-1s&autoplay=1&iv_load_policy=3&loop=1&modestbranding=1&start=)

## Graphemes

A grapheme is a letter or group of letters that usually represents a single phoneme.

A grapheme can consist of:

- one letter, for example, 'b' – in big
- two letters (a digraph or a split digraph), for example, 'sh' in ship, 'a-e' in make
- three letters (a trigraph), for example, 'igh' in light
- four letters, for example, 'ough' in bough, 'eigh' in weight.

In a few cases, one grapheme represents two phonemes, for example in the word 'uniform', the first grapheme 'u' represents /y/ and /oo/.

# Vocabulary

---

- What is a Digraph?
- A digraph is two letters combined to make a single sound in written or spoken English. A digraph can consist of consonants and vowels.

# Trigraph

---

- A trigraph is a single sound that is made with three letters such as igh, ure, air, ear and so on. Whereas, a digraph is a single sound which has been formed by two letters.

# Quadgraphs

---

- Quadgraphs are a single sound that is made up of four letters. Despite being a four-letter grapheme, when these letters are grouped together, they produce a singular phonetic sound.

# Split digraphs

---

- In its simplest form, a split digraph is a set of 2 letters that make one sound, but are separated within the word.
- The split digraph uses an 'e' after the initial vowel to warp and change the sound of the vowel. For example, it turns the word 'hug' into 'huge' and 'sit' into 'site'. The addition of the 'e' after the initial vowel changes the sound of the word from a short, harsh one to a longer, soft sound.

# Twinkl DFE approved scheme



**phonics**

Approved Phonics Teaching Programme | Department for Education

## Effective Phonics, Done Simply.

Everything you need to make phonics a joy. Endorsed by schools and validated by the DfE our SSP programme will help you nurture a love of reading and writing, whilst you guide them towards fluency.

[Free Programme Guide](#) [Order Physical Resources](#)

Learning Activity	Parental Role	Learning Activity	Parental Role
Phonics	1	Letter Sound	1
Sound and Spelling	2	Blending and Segmenting	2
Phonics and Spelling	3	Phonics and Spelling	3
Phonics and Spelling	4	Phonics and Spelling	4
Phonics and Spelling	5	Phonics and Spelling	5
Phonics and Spelling	6	Phonics and Spelling	6
Phonics and Spelling	7	Phonics and Spelling	7
Phonics and Spelling	8	Phonics and Spelling	8
Phonics and Spelling	9	Phonics and Spelling	9
Phonics and Spelling	10	Phonics and Spelling	10

Introducing **The Toys' Tea Party**

Dad  
Sam  
Ben

## Why is Phase 1 Phonics important?

In Phase/Level 1, children do not learn any letters or the sounds they make. The purpose of Level 1 is to develop children's listening and communication skills, including their vocabulary, to prepare them for reading and writing in the next phase/level. If children do not fully develop these skills it can mean that they may struggle to hear the individual sounds in words which can mean children find it much harder to spell and blend sounds for reading.

Level 1 is usually introduced in the nursery/f1 stage of early learning, but the skills will carry through to reception, year 1 and year 2. During Level 1 children will develop their listening and communication skills through 7 aspects:

1. environmental sounds,
2. instrumental sounds,
3. body percussion,
4. rhythm and rhyme,
5. alliteration,
6. voice sounds,
7. oral blending and segmenting.

Launch what's that sound game and look at an example of group work and the aspects.

# Reception – level 2, 3 and 4

---

- Powerpoint example of a lesson to watch – sounds home
- [https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/8ZGwM48Wy5E?playlist=8ZGwM48Wy5E&autoplay=1&iv\\_load\\_policy=3&loop=1&modestbranding=1&start=](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/8ZGwM48Wy5E?playlist=8ZGwM48Wy5E&autoplay=1&iv_load_policy=3&loop=1&modestbranding=1&start=)
- [Twinkl Phonics Level 5 GPCs: Pure Sounds, Actions and Mnemonics - YouTube \(youtube-nocookie.com\)](#)
- Actions sheet
- Home packs -**example**

# Your turn!

---

- Get an action sheet
- Use the sounds to make the word -
- rush          bird          crawl

# Year 1 and Year 2

---

- Year 1- level 5 – PowerPoint example
- Sound buttons - snail, high, cake
- Sound bars – church, boat
- Sound families - e
- Home packs
- Year 2 – level 6 – Suffixes, homophones, SPaG

## 'Decodable' books and texts for children to read

A systematic phonics programme includes sufficient 'decodable' books or texts, so that children can practise, at school and at home, their increasing knowledge of GPCs and their blending skill in meaningful contexts.



# Phonetically aligned books

---

- Bug club books are no longer colour banded they are now in units
- They are aligned with the sounds being taught in lessons
- We ask that they are read three times
- The first is for segmenting and blending
- The second is for fluency
- The third is to be questioned, talk about the book and work on comprehension
- Take a look at the books and look at the hints for parents

# Writing

---

For writing (spelling and handwriting), children should:

- practise segmenting spoken words into their individual sounds
- choose which letter or letters to represent each sound
- practise a correct pencil grip
- be taught the correct start and exit points for each letter, which should not include 'lead-in' strokes from the line (see below)
- respond to dictation from the teacher, practising writing words in sentences that include only the GPCs and exception words they have learnt.

Dictation is a vital part of a phonics session. Writing simple dictated sentences that include words taught so far gives children opportunities to practise and apply their spelling, without their having to think about what it is they want to say.

# Writing -Robot arms

---

- Move your arms to each sound
- Use them to help spell
- Went
- Shop
- Flight
- Forty

Any questions?

---

- Thanks for taking part