



6th October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are going to introduce 'Letters and Sounds' phase 2 phonics to the children starting next week. Each Monday we will introduce a new sound (phoneme) to the children. We make the children aware of the letters name but we focus on the sound that the letter makes. We also show the children how to make the letter shape correctly so they can practise writing them. We will practise the sound and shape during the week and some of our small group time activities will focus on the sound of the week. In class we have a sound table. We encourage the children to bring something in from home that begins with the focus sound. We will send the sound objects home on Friday however if your child wants to take it home earlier they can do so. Please make sure all items are named!

We will send home a sound book with your child next Tuesday. It will show you the action we teach the children for the sound and help with the pronunciation. It is really important the letter sounds are reinforced at home, if you have any queries on how to say them just ask. Please return the sound books to school on a Monday so that we can add the next phoneme.

Key vocabulary we will use with your child:

A **phoneme** is the smallest unit of sound, so s-i-t has 3 phonemes. We will introduce the term phoneme to the children straight away.

A **grapheme** is the letter or letters that represents the sound in a word.

How you can help your child

Practise the letters at home, including revising previous sounds learnt. Encourage correct letter formation and pencil grip right from the start. We will help children to develop a comfortable pencil grip but it must be reinforced every time they use a pencil.

Please refer to the phonemes by the **sounds** they make not the letter names.

Please make sure you help your child to use **lower case** letters. When they write a name they need a capital at the start but all other letters must be lower case.

The sounds are taught in a specific order which is not the same as alphabetical order. The 'Letters and Sounds' order allows the children to build words as soon as possible.

We will display the sound of the week on the notice board but for your information the order for the rest of this half term is as follows:

Week beginning	Phoneme
11 th November	s
18 th November	a
25 th November	t
2 nd December	p
9 th December	Revision
16 th December	Revision

If you have any queries or questions at any time please just ask.

Mrs Foster and Miss Cannon