

What is Phonics?



- Phonics helps children to learn how to read and to spell. This is done by learning how the sounds that make up words are written.
- Every word can be split up into sounds.
Example: cat has 3 sounds in it c – a – t shop has 4 sounds in it sh – o – p
- Some sounds can be written with more than one letter. For example look at these sounds: sh th igh ay ee
- The more sounds children know, the more words they can read and write.

- Each sound is given a picture and a phrase to say to help them remember them.
For example: ay May I play?



- We split the sounds up into groups so children know which to focus on first. We begin with Set 1 sounds before moving on to Set 2 and then Set 3.

- **Reading:** To read words, they have to say the sounds aloud and then blend them together to say the word. This is known as 'sounding out'. Ask them to say the sounds and then blend them together to read the word.



- **Spelling:** To spell words we do something called Fred Talk (Fred is the frog!). This means saying the sounds one by one, counting them on their fingers so they know how many sounds they need. Example: cat would be 3 sounds c – a – t . shop would be 3 sounds too: sh – o – p

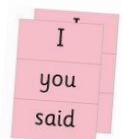


- **Sound Mats:** If they get stuck with a sound when they are reading or spelling, use a sound mat to help them.



- **Red Words:** Some words can't be read using phonics. We call these Red Words or they are also called Tricky Words. We talk about what makes them tricky and have to learn to spell these without phonics. Fred says "You can't Fred-talk a red word."

Some really common words are Red Words. For example: the, I, you, said.



- Remember... the aim of phonics is to encourage children to become fluent readers. There is no need to