

Mickleover Primary School

Phonics Programme



At MPS we follow the Twinkl Phonics Scheme. Twinkl Phonics is a fully comprehensive, synthetic phonics teaching programme. New graphemes are taught through the stories and adventures of Kit, Sam and the Twinkl Phonics family, the scheme builds and develops the skills and understanding children need to become effective, independent readers and writers.



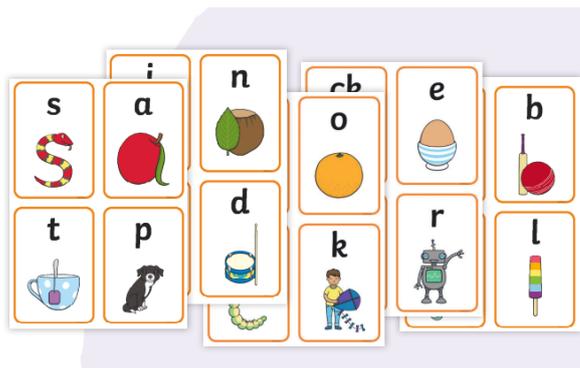
Phonics Teaching consists of 6 phases outlines below.

Phase 1 – in this phase the focus is placed mostly on teaching children how to recognise certain sounds and some simple words. This helps to improve children’s awareness of the sounds around them. It also lays important foundations for the phonics work that will follow in later phases.

Phases 2-5 – children are introduced to the 44 phonemes in the English language and the corresponding graphemes.

Phase 6 – the focus in this phase is placed upon becoming more confident in reading and spelling, and activities that encourage these skills are hugely important at this stage. From here on, children should feel confident in their early-reading abilities and be able to progress onto more advanced reading schemes when they are ready.

There are 44 phonemes in the English language. These include the 26 letters of the alphabet plus consonant sounds such as /sh/ and /ng/ and long vowel sounds such as /ee/ and /igh/. Each phoneme is introduced systematically and at a fast pace. In the Early Years, children are introduced to around four new sounds per week, revisiting and practising taught phonemes daily to ensure secure understanding and rapid recall. Children have a ‘Sound Book’ and new sounds are added as they are introduced and children are encouraged to practise them at home too.



At MPS we teach children phonics using **Pure Sounds**. 'Pure sounds' refers to the way of sounding phonemes without adding an extra 'uh', known as a schwa, at the end of each letter. Using pure sounds helps children to blend sounds for reading and segment words for writing, as no extra sounds are accidentally inserted into words. For example: • /s/ is pronounced as 'sss' instead of 'suh'. • /t/ is pronounced as a very short bouncy sound instead of 'tuh'.

Please refer to the video link below to hear the Pure Sounds.

[Pure Sounds](#)

Blending

Blending is the key skill in the development of word reading.

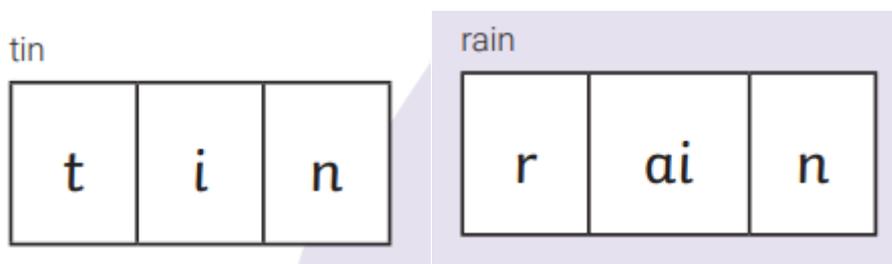
Blending is the process of saying each individual phoneme that appears in a written word and then running the phonemes together to hear and say the word. For the process of blending to be as smooth and effective as possible, pure sounds must be used. Secure, rapid recall of individual letter sounds, digraphs and trigraphs is crucial to enable children to blend words effectively.



Segmenting is the key skill in the development of word writing.

Segmenting

Segmenting is the process of breaking down a word into the individual phonemes in order to correctly spell the word. Children listen to, and identify, the phonemes in a word and then choose the correct grapheme or graphemes to represent them.



Tricky Words There are parts of some very common words in the English language that are not phonetically decodable. Some examples of these are 'to', 'the' and 'said'. Due to the frequency and usefulness of these common words, it is necessary to introduce them as 'tricky' or 'common exception' words at the earliest stages. Children begin to build a sight vocabulary of these words.