Phonics at Upton Heath



Church of England Primary School

What is phonics?

From a very early stage, children develop an awareness of different sounds in spoken language.

They develop an understanding that spoken words are made up of different sounds (phonemes) and they learn to match these phonemes to letters (graphemes).

Phonics is about children knowing how letters link to sounds (graphemes to phonemes), e.g. c as in ‘cat’, ll as in ‘fell’, ee as in ‘sheep’. Children use this phonics knowledge when they are reading and writing.

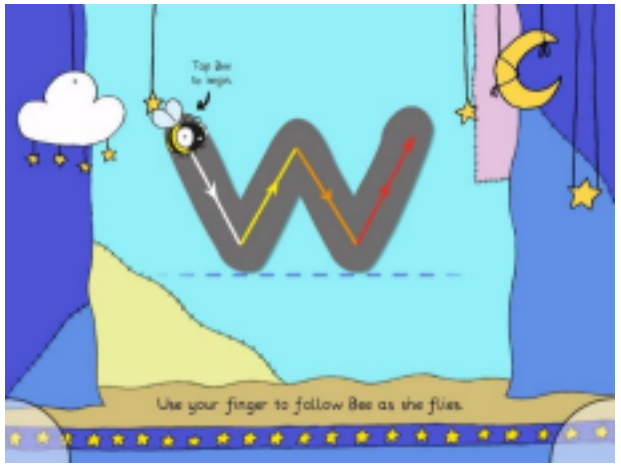
This system has been shown to be a quicker and more efficient way for children to learn to read the words on a page fluently and accurately. This also helps them greatly with their spelling.

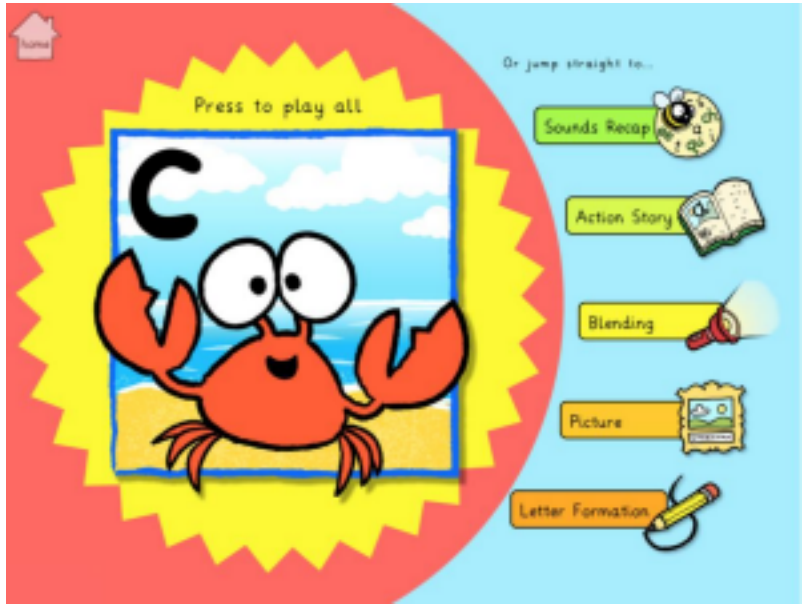
How do we teach phonics at Upton Heath?

At Upton Heath Church of England Primary School all children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 take part in high quality, daily phonics sessions. These are fun sessions involving lots of speaking, listening and games where the emphasis is on children's participation. They learn to use their phonic knowledge for reading, writing and independent play.

We use Anima Phonics to enhance our

phonics teaching.



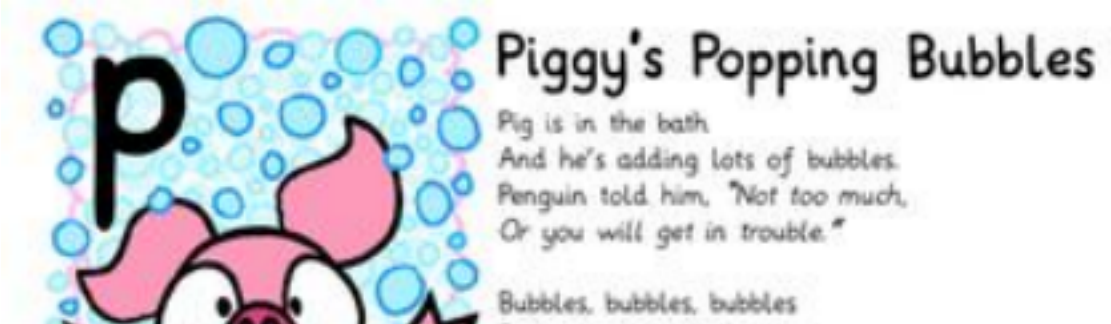


Anima Phonics

Anima Phonics is a fun and interactive online programme of lessons.



Each sound is introduced with an animal character, poem / story,

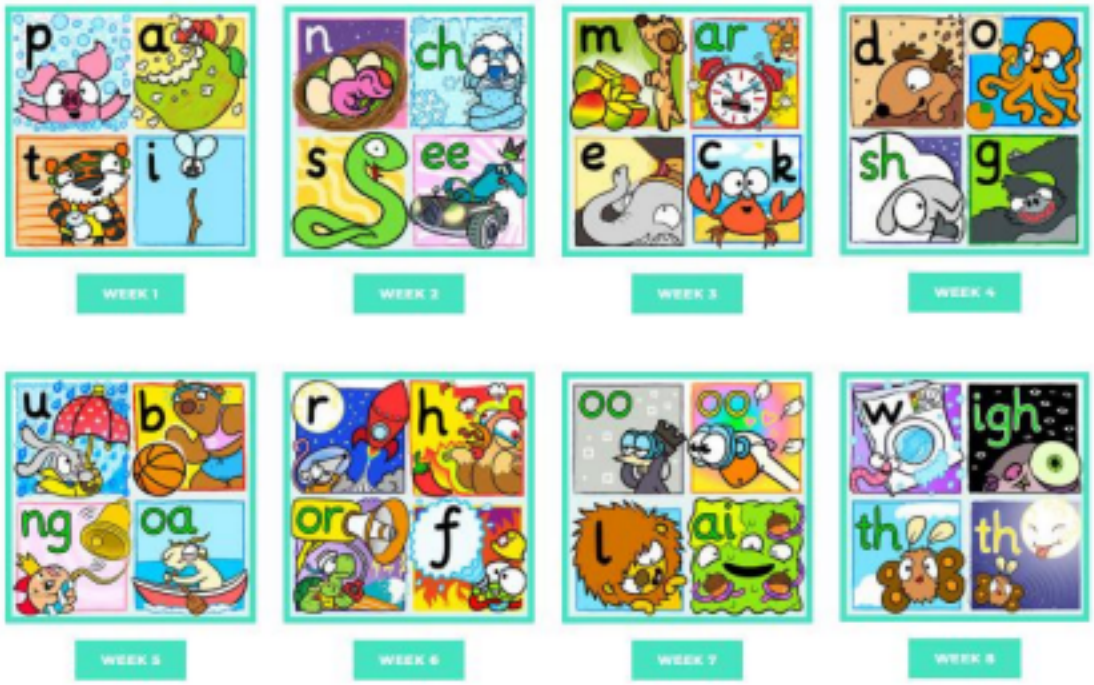


action

and some have songs.

This multi sensory approach supports them in remembering the phoneme and its corresponding grapheme.

In EYFS:



We begin by learning to say the 44 sounds and how to recognise them and write them down.

Some of these sounds are called digraphs (where 2 letters make 1 sound – ch, ee, ar)

We learn that these letters are a unit and work together to make 1 sound.

We begin to blend (say them quickly) the sounds together to read simple words

pig chat park

We also learn to segment them (split them up) to help us to spell simple words.

We also begin to learn to read and spell Rainbow Words and are introduced to ‘silly sounds’

These are words that are spelt differently to how they sound



The silly sounds are shown in yellow to help the children spot that they don’t make the usual sound.

The children can refer to the picture cues underneath to support them as we work on developing speedy recognition and fluency.

These words are very common and will regularly appear in children's reading and spelling so it's very important that they practice these.

Once the children are confident with the 44 sounds in Unit 1 we will work on reading and spelling longer words









We will learn to spot adjacent consonants (or sticky letters) at the beginning or end of words and to blend them quickly to read longer words

splash lamp brick

We will use sound buttons to help us!

We continue to build up our bank of Rainbow Words.

We will also learn to karate chop 2 syllable words such as
sunset sun / set
lunchbox lunch / box



Once we are confident to read and spell longer words we will learn alternative graphemes for some of the sounds we already know! (at the end of EYFS/beginning of Y1)







We will refer to them as naughty digraphs and we will learn how ‘The Naughtifier’ turns these digraphs red.



Each alternative digraph has the same character and action which helps children to understand that they make the same sound but are written in different ways.

In Year 1:

We will continue to consolidate our understanding of alternative graphemes and begin to learn even more silly sounds such as the soft sounds c and g like in

pencil city

giant magic



WEEK 1



WEEK 2



WEEK 3



WEEK 4



WEEK 5

We learn about our vowel sounds and we are introduced to Split digraphs (where we say the letter name not its sound)

cake
spike
home
extreme
flute



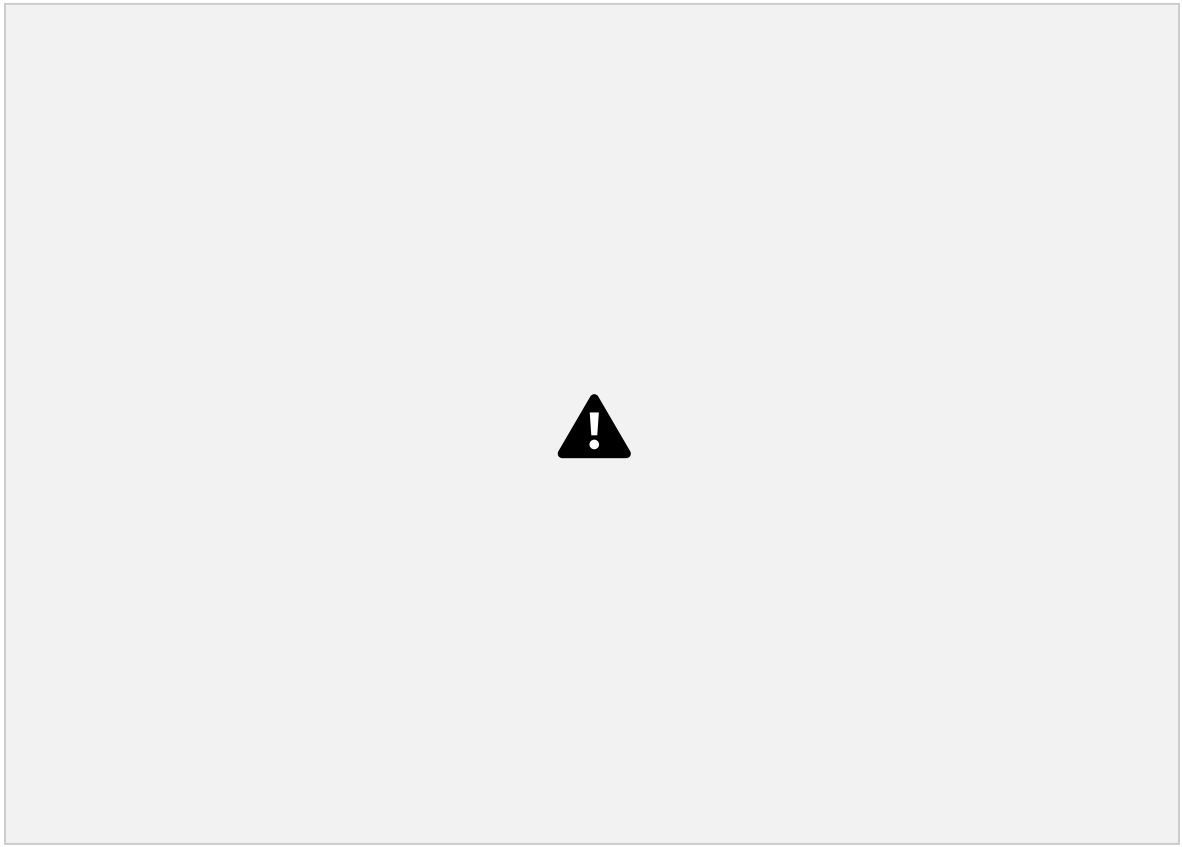
We learn about ghost letters (silent letters)

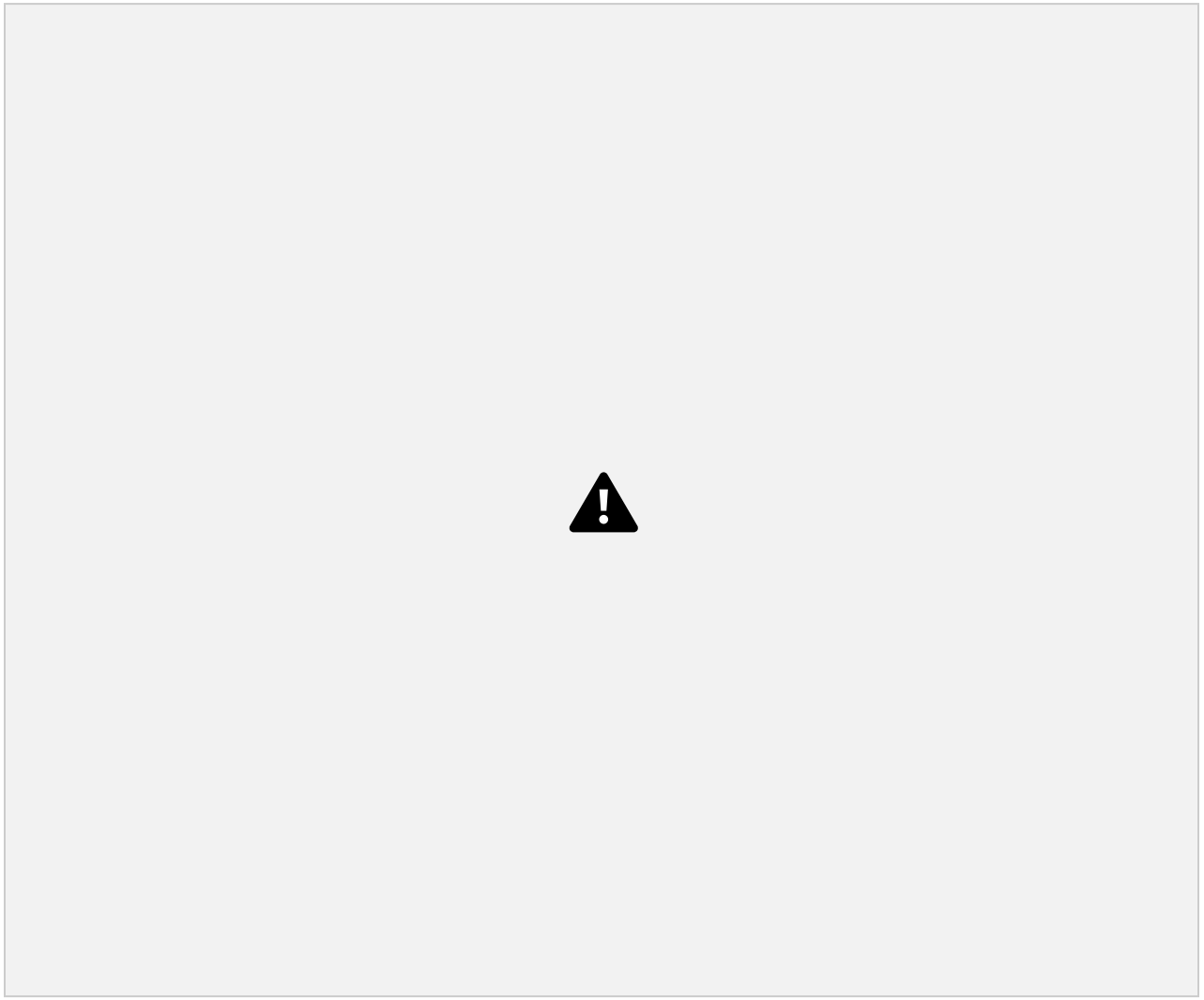
lamb

wrong
scent

We also learn more alternative or naughty digraphs!

At the end of Year 1 and into Year 2 we continue to learn even more silly sounds and unusual spellings





In Year 2:

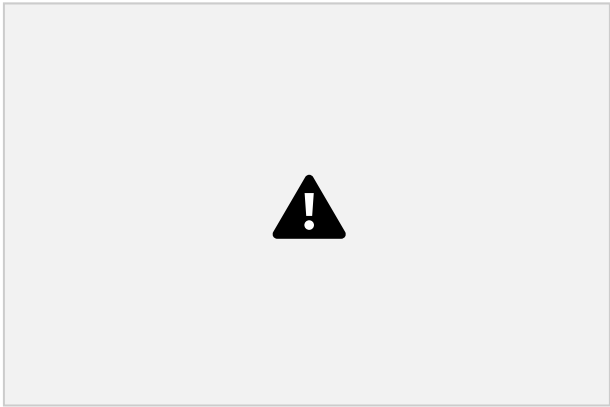
We continue to learn

unusual spelling
patterns and apply new
spelling rules

The lessons are sequenced in units but the teachers will plan the pace of the sessions to meet the needs of the children.

This will be more important than ever this year!

Due to COVID school closure, the teachers will plan to address any gaps and will use assessments to ascertain a starting point. If children need extra support they will receive this through additional interventions in small groups.



Phonics Screening Check

Every Year 1 child in the country will be taking the phonics screening check in the same week in June. Please make sure your child is in school that week!

The aim of the check is to ensure that all children are able to read by the end of Year 2.

This ‘midpoint check’ will ensure that we have a clear understanding of what the children need to learn in Year 2.

It is a statutory assessment and results are shared with parents at the end of Year 1. The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons.



Children will be asked to ‘stretch out’ a word and blend the sounds together.eg d-o-g - dog

The focus of the check is to see which sounds the children know and therefore the children will be asked to read made up ‘nonsense’ words.

IS NOT A READING TEST

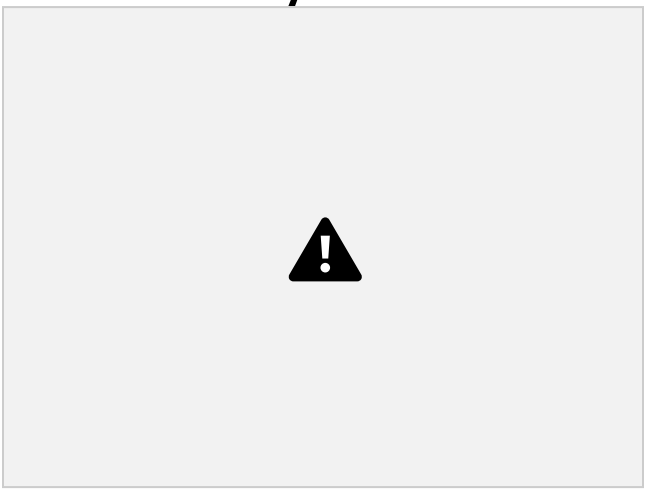
The check includes pseudo (nonsense words) to check that children can recognise the sounds and apply their phonics strategies to unknown words.

The check will be carried out in a 1:1 scenario by a familiar adult in a quiet place.

The screening will take 5 – 10 minutes per child.

The children will have carried out similar tasks throughout the year so it will not be seen a stressful ‘test’ situation.

We will carry out a practice screen throughout the year and inform you of any target sounds.



How can you help?

Learn the actions and correct articulation of the sounds (see parents guide or

ask your child to teach you!)

Play games to support practicing the sounds – snap, matching games, www.animaphonics.com , www.phonicsplay.com and other iPad games

Listen to your child read regularly and share books with them – spot sounds that they have learnt in school using the sound mat to support

Support your child in completing any phonics tasks that may be sent home

There are games that can be accessed at home via the Anima Phonics website so that children can practise and apply what they have learnt in school. This interactive sound board can support children when reading and writing independently.

