

## Ideas of activities that you can use to support your child at home with early reading.

- Use the environment around you at home or when out shopping and encourage your child to locate and name letter and keywords. Words are everywhere! Signs, labels, packaging.
- Ask the children to analyse the words and count the number of phonemes they can hear and identify the graphemes used to represent them.
- Clap syllables in words
- Label familiar places and items around the house
- Provide paper and different pencils and pens for children to express themselves and 'play write'
- Play lotto and snap games
- Use of flash cards for key words
- Use picture cards to play 'Grapheme Snap' which is just like normal snap but instead of shouting "SNAP" the children shout 'GRAPH", "DIGRAPH" or "TRIGRAPH" depending on the match.

## Supporting your child with their spelling.

### We use the 'Say Name Cover Write Check' strategy.

For each word your child should look carefully at the word and say the whole word, sounding each phoneme out. They then name each letter in the word, cover it up and try to write it from memory, then they check to see that they have got all the right letters in the right places.

If your child gets a small part of the word wrong, this is the bit they should be encouraged to concentrate on learning. For example; if your child spells the word 'photo' as 'foto' then firstly they should be praised as they have heard all the right phonemes in the word, but made an incorrect spelling choice. They have chosen the 'f' in 'fish' and they need the 'f' in 'dolphin'. They would be encouraged to focus on practising the 'ph' spelling choice.

## How has Phonics teaching evolved?

Teachers in schools have used a range of approaches over time to teach reading and writing. If we consider how we as adults read now and were taught to read we may have come across a range of different approaches including:

- Sight recognition words, letter sounds, letter names, reading for meaning, comprehension, working out unfamiliar words in context, topic related words

In school now, we use a systematic, synthetic phonics approach to teaching reading. Our children are taught to understand the processes of reading alongside the enjoyment of reading.

In April 2021, the government launched a new process to validate complete systematic, synthetic phonics teaching programmes. We have chosen Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised. Collins Big Cat books for Letters and Sounds feature exciting fiction and non-fiction decodable readers to enthuse and inspire our children.

The National Curriculum provides clear guidance about the teaching programme of reading and writing for our children. This is used by teaching staff.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

## Reading at Bradleys Both Community Primary School

Reading is a life skill and is an important part of everyday life. At Bradleys Both we want to share and develop an enjoyment of reading. Any support and time that you can give your child at home will help reinforce their skills and enjoyment of English. We want the children to experience reading a breadth of texts and to foster an enjoyment of reading.

Reading happens in lots of contexts and should not just focus around 'reading scheme books' We would promote and encourage you to submerge your child in a full range of texts including:

*Picture books with and without words (even for able readers) books, comics, newspapers, leaflets, stories, poetry, non-fiction, reports, signs, brochures, magazines - even the backs of cereal packets!*

In school the children are submerged in reading throughout their day.

- Written words are displayed around the classrooms and school building.
- Signs and labels are used
- Daily phonics sessions are taught
- Texts are shared within teaching e.g. English lesson focus
- Practice reading group sessions of children with an adult sharing the same text 3x weekly
- Reading through cross curricular links and teaching e.g. History topic of Vikings reading matter and research
- Reading groups to target specific skills and teaching points

- Reading for enjoyment - books in classrooms, free readers, topic books, comics, newspapers, use of the library
- Use of IT for research and online reading books
- Reading comprehension tasks and lessons
- Individual reading books
- Reading events - book fairs, World Book Day, sponsored reading event
- Sharing book to take home
- Reading practice sessions 3x weekly
- Posters around school

**Here are a few ideas for supporting your child with their reading:**

- Recognise words and letters around you and your environment
- Discuss vocabulary -ask for meanings and check understanding
- After a section of text, ask child to retell the story / events / information
- Discuss characters - names, personalities etc.
- Ask your child to describe the setting
- Ask children about spelling choices being used
- Name important facts after reading non-fiction texts
- Play with words and letters and sounds
- Encourage your child to talk about their favourite part
- Make comparisons with other texts
- Read a range of different text genres
- Keep a review book and share views about what they read
- Collect vocabulary and interesting words from texts

## Introduction

### What is PHONICS?

Phonics is a method of **teaching children to read by linking sounds (phonemes) and the symbols that represent them (graphemes, or letter groups)**. Phonics is the learning-to-read method used in primary schools today.

Learning the skills of Speaking, listening, reading and writing are all so deeply interlinked.

Speaking and Listening are a very important and powerful pre-reading and writing skills. The discussion a child can have with an adult or another child about something they might see or experience helps the child to focus on listening to sounds and learn how sentences are constructed. Questioning is a crucial tool to use in developing a child's comprehension.

### **The principles behind Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing**

$R = G \rightarrow P$

Reading = Grapheme  $\rightarrow$  Phoneme

$S = P \rightarrow G$

Spelling = phoneme  $\rightarrow$  grapheme

**PHONICS** helps learners to understand the building blocks of the English language. Letters have 'names' and 'sounds' and children learn that **letters can do more than one job** in a word.

We use a multi-sensory (visual, auditory and kinaesthetic) approach to teach meta-cognitive strategies (thinking skills) that empower learners with lifelong word-solving skills.

## Glossary of terms

The children are taught to use and recognise terms when reading and writing. These are the most commonly used terms:

Word	Definition
Phoneme	The single sound of a letter or group of letters
Grapheme	The symbol used for a sound. A spelling choice.
Graph (1)	a one letter spelling choice e.g <b>a</b> in <b>ant</b>
Digraph (2)	a two letter spelling choice e.g <b>sh</b> in <b>shop</b>
Trigraph (3)	a three letter spelling choice e.g. <b>igh</b> in <b>light</b>
Quadgraph (4)	a 4 letter spelling choice e.g. <b>ough</b> in <b>ought</b>
Split digraph	A two letter spelling choice that is split, where both letters are working together to make one sound. e.g. <b>take</b> - the <b>a</b> and <b>e</b> are working together to make the long 'ay' sound
Vowel	a, e, i, o, u
Consonant	b,c,d,f,g,h,j,k,l,m,n,p,q,r,s,t,v,w,x,y,z
Synthesise	The process used to blend the individual sounds together to read the word.
Segment	The break a word up into individual sounds (phonemes)

## Further information, links and resources

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

The new National Curriculum:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

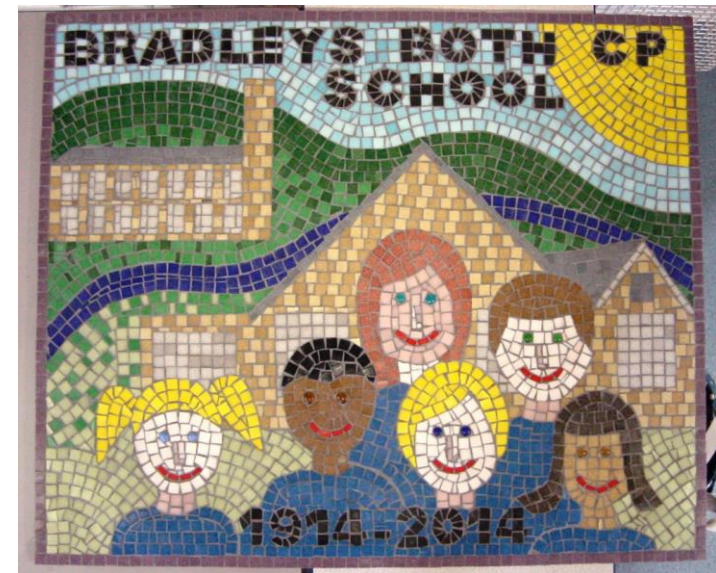


Bradleys Both Community Primary School

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## How do we teach Phonics and Reading at Bradleys Both Community Primary School?



**Guidance to support Parents and Carers  
with our approaches to  
Reading and Writing**