More Useful Websites

- www.topmarks.co.uk
  Search engine designed for schools where you can find a wide range of resources and activities with a phonics focus.

- www.mrthorne.com
  Videos and activities for each sound

- www.lesleyclarkesyntheticphonics.co.uk
  Parents’ section has information and online games

For iPads:
Mr Thorne Does Phonics: Letters and Sounds
Mr Thorne Does Phonics: Video Collection

Letters and Sounds

Parents Guide to Phonics
‘Letters & Sounds’ is the our programme for teaching phonics and high frequency words.

It is split into 6 phases with the different phases being covered in different years in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

- Phase 1 – Nursery / Reception
- Phase 2 – Reception
- Phase 3 – Reception
- Phase 4 – Reception / Year 1
- Phase 5 – Year 1
- Phase 6 – Year 1 / Year 2

This booklet will give you an idea of what is expected at each level.

Below is a list of websites that can support you and your child with letters and sounds...

- www.bbc.co.uk/education
  Games to practice key skills such as rhyming, punctuation and grammar. Follow the links to KS1 phonics.

- www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex..htm
  Lots of free games for each phase, especially good for reading non-words. You can also subscribe to access more games.

- www.letters-and-sounds.com
  Includes further information on each phase as well as printable resources and links to online games.

- www.ictgames.com/literacy
  Wide range of games for sounds, words and rhyming.
All of these words and sounds form the basis of reading and writing and if they are known before the children go into key stage 2 then they will greatly benefit.

Phase 1 focuses on the basic skills needed for reading and writing and includes singing lots of nursery rhymes, playing listening games and using musical instruments.

Things to try at home:

- Play games like ‘I spy’
- Sing songs and rhymes together
- Make a ‘junk band’ with pots & pans
- Share lots of books together
During phase 2, the children learn the first set of sounds...

- sat pin
- mdg ock ck
- eur hbf l
- ff ll ss

and learn to read 5 tricky words...

They learn to **orally blend** cvc words e.g. when you sound out c-a-t, they can tell you the word is cat, and also **orally segment** cvc words e.g. when you say pin, they can pick out the sounds p-i-n.

- the to I no go
- because even am before
- gran clothes tell key
- fun place mother sat
- boat window sleep feet
- morning queen each book
- its green different let
- girl which inside run
- any under hat snow
- air trees bad tea
- top eyes fell friends
- box dark grandad there’s
- looking end than best
- better hot sun across
- gone hard floppy really
- wind wish eggs once
- please thing stopped ever
Phase 3 builds on Phase 2 and the children learn the next set of sounds...

and learn to read 12 more tricky words...

```
j v w x y z zz qu ch
sh th ng
ai ee igh oa oo er ar or ur
ow oi ear air ure
```

They should now, also, be able to spell the 5 tricky words from phase 2.

```
he she we me be was
my you her they all are
```
In Phase 4, no new sounds are taught. Previous sounds are consolidated. During Phase 4, sounds with adjacent consonants or initial and final **blends** are taught e.g. bl, dr, sc, ft, ct. These can be sounded out but recognising them quickly makes for a stronger reader.

Children read words with more than one syllable and 14 more tricky words are added as well...

The children should now be able to spell the Phase 3 tricky words

- some
- come
- one
- said
- do
- so
- were
- when
- have
- there
- out
- like
- little
- what
- water
- away
- good
- want
- over
- how
- did
- man
- going
- where
- would
- or
- took
- school
- think
- home
- who
- didn’t
- ran
- know
- bear
- can’t
- again
- cat
- long
- things
- new
- after
- wanted
- eat
- everyone
- our
- two
- has
- yes
- play
- take
- thought
- dog
- well
- find
- more
- I’ll
- round
- tree
- magic
- shouted
- us
- other
- food
- fox
- through
- way
- been
- stop
- must
In Phase 6, the focus is on learning spelling rules for word endings or suffixes.

They learn how words change when you add certain letters. These suffixes are learnt or consolidated from year 1.

- s
- es
- ing
- ed
- er
- est
- less
- ful
- ness
- ly
- ment

The children are also expected to be able to read and write the ‘next 200 common words’.

In Phase 5, the children learn new sounds and alternative ways of spelling sounds they already know.

ay oy ea ie ow ew ue ou
ir ar er ir are ce ea o ed

These are called split digraphs.

They also learn 5 less common sounds...

a_e e_e i_e o_e u_e

wh ph oe au ey

They should be able to read words such as crayon, mountain, thirsty and dolphin using their phonic knowledge.

They should also be able to read and write the ‘first 100 high frequency words’ (shown on next page)...
By the end of Year 1, the children should be confidently reading all of these words and writing them accurately too.