

## Parent Information Sheet

### Help Your Child Learn To Read Using Phonics

*If your child has recently started school, you might be wondering how you can help them learn to read at home, or perhaps you are interested in knowing a bit more about what they are learning at school. Most parents of young children were taught to read using a different strategy to the one we use today, which is why it can be hard to know what to do for the best. Use this document to help learn a little more about how your child will learn to read.*



- **Phonics** - The way children are taught to read these days is called phonics. There are some other useful words you might want to know like phoneme (the sound of each letter) and grapheme (what each letter looks like). Phonemes and graphemes are now taught in a special order which is the best way to help children learn to read most quickly. They are split into groups called 'Phases'.
- **Say It Properly** – Make sure phonemes have a very short and snappy "t" sound and not a 'tu' or 'ter' sound – if you whisper it, it's easier to make the sound. Don't be tempted to say 'ner'. Instead say 'n'. Another tricky one is 'r' - not 'ru', but more of a growling 'rrr' sound. When you say a letter, think how it actually sounds in a words. For some letters, there is the temptation to put an 'u' or 'er' on the (h, j, t). It's really important though that you keep the sounds really short, because if you think about it, when children are blending and spelling (which means putting the sounds together to make words), it won't work if all the letters end with an 'u' or 'er' sound. EG 'cat' would become 'cuater'.
- **Blending and Segmenting** - Understanding that words are made up of sequences of individual sounds, or phonemes, is a building block for learning to decode, or sound out, individual words. Two important abilities that children must develop are called blending and segmenting.
  - **Segmenting** involves breaking words down into individual sounds or syllables (cat = c-a-t)
  - **Blending** involves pulling together individual sounds or syllables within words (c-a-t = cat).  
At Fernhurst Primary School we use '**Phoneme**' '**sound buttons**' & '**digraph lines**' to help with this process.

At Fernhurst Primary, we follow the 'Little Wandle' programme for teaching of phonics. Phonics are taught throughout EYFS & Key Stage 1 and into Key Stage 2:

- ❖ Phase 1 – Pre School / Reception
- ❖ Phase 2 – Reception
- ❖ Phase 3 – Reception
- ❖ Phase 4 – Reception / Year 1
- ❖ Phase 5 – Year 1 / Year 2

High Frequency Words children need to read and spell independently:

The First 100 High Frequency Words	<a href="http://www.highfrequencywords.org/hfw100fp.pdf">http://www.highfrequencywords.org/hfw100fp.pdf</a>
The next 200 High Frequency Words	<a href="http://www.highfrequencywords.org/hfw200fp.pdf">http://www.highfrequencywords.org/hfw200fp.pdf</a>

*For more information, support & resources, please log on to:*

- ❖ Flash cards for each phase - <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>
- ❖ Download the High Frequency words here - <http://www.highfrequencywords.org/>
- ❖ Phonics Games - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=phonics>
- ❖ BBC games - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zgkw2hv>
- ❖ <https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/>