

# PHONICS

## AT GREENFIELDS



Phonics Shed



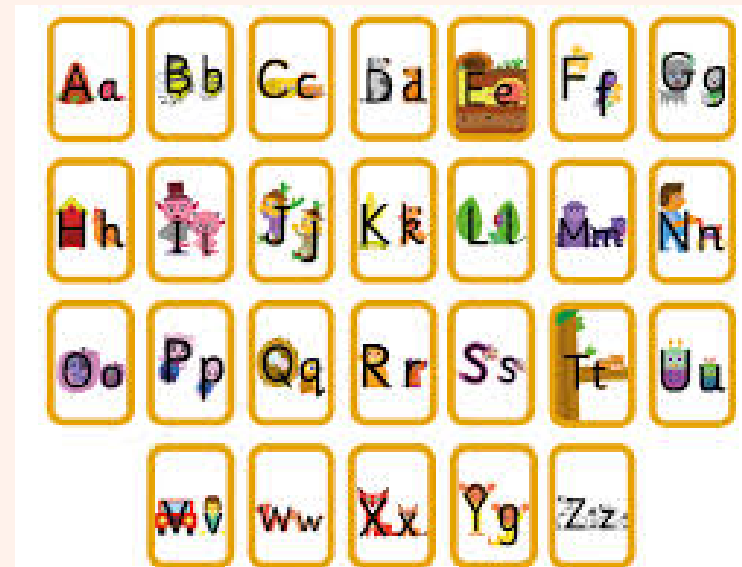


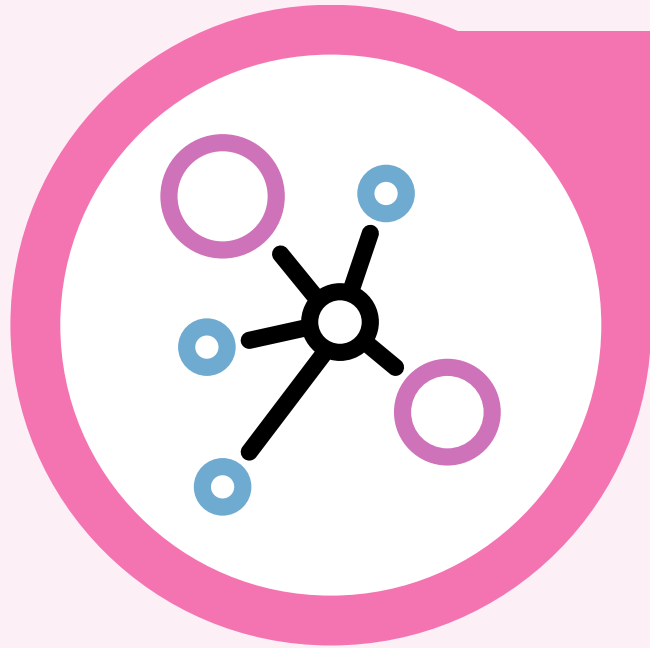
# WHAT IS PHONICS?

**Phonics is the best way to teach children to read and write!**

Phonics teaches children to identify the smallest units of sound within a word. It helps them to break down the word to write and blend them together to read.

Written language is like a code. Phonics teaches children to crack the code and use it to read and write. Children learn the simplest letters and sounds first and then progress to learning trickier ones later.





## KEY TERMS

**You will hear you child use lots of these terms that you may not know the meaning of...**

- **Phoneme** – one unit of sound – the smallest unit of sound in a word.
- **Grapheme** – A letter, or group of letters that makes one sound written down – the written version of a phoneme.
- **Digraph** – is two letters combined to make a single sound.
- **Trigraph** – is three letters combined to make a single sound.
- **Common Exception Words** – Words that are not decodable.
- **High frequency words** – words that have little meaning on their own, but contribute a great deal to the meaning of a sentence.



# CRACKING THE CODE

**We use a Phonics programme call Phonics Shed. It is broken into chapters, all of which work on skills your child needs to learn to read and write.**

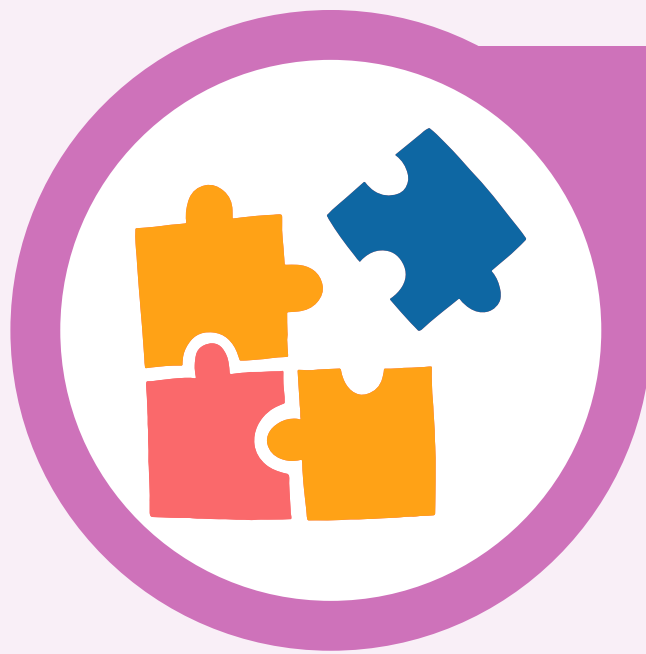
## **Chapter 2 - 4**

There are 6 main skills your children will be taught.

1. **GPC: Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence** – Taught all of the phonemes (sounds) in the English Language and which letters (graphemes) make those sounds.
2. **Letter formation** – taught the letter name, a rhyme, the individual character and how to form both the capital and lower case letter.
3. **Blending** – the sounds that make up a word and then merge the sounds together until they can hear the word.
4. **Segmenting** – opposite of blending, breaking up sounds to spell the words.
5. **Best fit rules** – alternative spellings for a sound they already know
6. **Common exception words** – Not fully decodable words.

## **Chapter 1: Nursery**

Building foundations to reading and writing. Children will develop listening, comprehension and motor skills. The child use active listening and learn about environmental sounds.



## IN YEAR R

Your children are currently learning **Chapter 2**, which focusses on the individual phoneme sounds of the English language.

### Children learn Chapter 2 and 3:

This develops:

- GPC
- Letter formation
- Blending
- Segmenting
- Common  
Exception words

They can link the learnt sounds (phonemes) to the grapheme.

They are beginning to blend CVC words to read.

They are beginning to segment CVC words to write.

They are learning the Chapter 2 common exception words.

They will move onto Chapter 3 in Term 4.

# CHAPTER 3

## When your children move onto Chapter 3:

- They will begin to learn digraphs and trigraphs.
- They will use all learnt knowledge to blend tricker words to read and segment tricker words to write.
- They will read and write more complex sentences.
- They will learn Chapter 3 common exception words.







# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

The children will not be bringing home the decodable books as these are used in school within their reading lessons, however they are able to access all of the decodable books on the Phonics Shed website.

Teachers may set assignments linked to the sounds that they children have been learning in class. These are usually games and activities that are engaging for the children.

You can also help by encouraging your child to use their phonics skills when they see words in everyday life, such as food packets, timetables, leaflets, menus and signs and helping them to attempt to decode what the words say by using 'sound it, squash it, say it' to sound them out and highlight the GPCs that they have been learning in class.

If you are unsure on how to pronounce the different sounds when supporting your child, you can refer to the **GPC and Character Overview** booklet in the pack, or you can search for Phonics Shed on youtube where there are videos for each of the sounds to model the pronunciation.

## What could I use at home?

- Decodable books
- Games
- Assignments set by the teachers.
- Segmenting and blending words in different contexts.
- Practicing pronunciation of sounds.

**Where can I find the resources on Phonics Shed to support my child?**



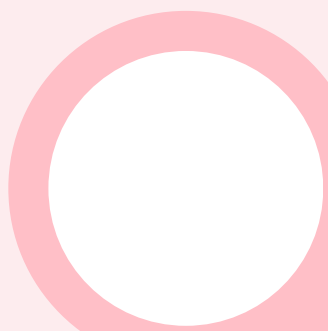




## HOW DO I KNOW WHAT SOUNDS MY CHILD IS LEARNING?

**Every class should have the sounds that are being taught that week displayed in their windows so that they are visible to parents.**

**If you are unsure please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher which sounds they are focussing on.**



### **Are there other ways I can support my child?**

To continue to support your child's reading, please make sure that you are regularly reading with them. Engaging in the reading challenges can be a fun and rewarding way to encourage your child/ren to read for pleasure.