

A Guide to starting phonics at Southill Primary School.

Today, children are taught to read using phonics, which is all about the sounds that make up words. Children start by learning the letters and the sounds they make, and how to put them together to make and read simple words. Then they learn how letters combine to make new sounds (such as SH), and move on to longer words and new reading skills.

Please follow this link to find the alphablocks guide to phonics.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/the-alphablocks-guide-to-phonics>

- Help your child learn to read – this is the first video to watch and it explains how we will progress through our phonics teaching.
- First Steps – Red. This is where we will all be starting.



The first key skill in phonics is to learn the letters and their sounds.

This stage introduces the most common letters and the sounds they make. This is different from the letter names many of us learned to read with.

At Southill we follow *Letters and Sounds* and use *Alphablocks* to support our teaching. We will learn 4 new letter sounds each week. Your child will bring home a sound book each day to show you our new sound. Please try to look at this **daily** to help with recognising the letters and sounds. It might then be useful to watch the matching episode of *Alphablocks*.

Our first four letters will be 's' 'a' 't' 'p' and this episode explores these sounds:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b01cz258/alphablocks-series-2-1-taps>

*When your child knows their first letters and sounds well, they are ready to read simple words. This involves the key skills of **sounding** out and **blending**: point to each letter to say its sound in turn, then say the sounds together to make the word. (Alphablocks do this by holding hands and saying 'c-a-t, CAT!', and so on.)*

*The other key skill is **segmenting**, which is the opposite of blending: listen to a word to hear which sounds make it up, and decide which letters you need to make the word.*

At this stage, every letter has one sound. To help your child, it's a good idea to get to know the exact letter sounds as they are pronounced in modern phonics.

Follow this link again and watch the 'word magic' video.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/the-alphablocks-guide-to-phonics>

When children are confident recognising sounds in words, they will bring home books to read to try out their own word magic.

Learning at home: Here is a link to some great video lessons which follow the same *Letters and Sounds* sequence. We will be teaching in a similar way here at Southill. Please do not feel you have to sit and follow every lesson here – they are just there to support any learning at home. They are also useful for parents/guardians to show you how we teach phonics.

There is also a useful guide to pronouncing the letter sounds (phonemes)

https://youtu.be/TTe5_Em0BHQ (guide to pronouncing sounds)

<https://lettersandsounds.org.uk/for-home/reception> (daily lessons)

If you choose to look at these, please follow the lessons in the same sequence as we do – I will update you each week so you know what to look out for. **Try not to get ahead of our schedule – we like to learn new letter sounds together at school.** The updates will be in our home learning section of the website:

<https://www.southill.dorset.sch.uk/year-groups/reception/>



We have fun learning phonics at Southill and are very excited to start soon!

Please email me if you have any questions: a.puddick@southill.dorset.sch.uk

Many thanks

Mrs Puddick

Letters
and Sounds