Phonics in Year 1

Synthetic phonics

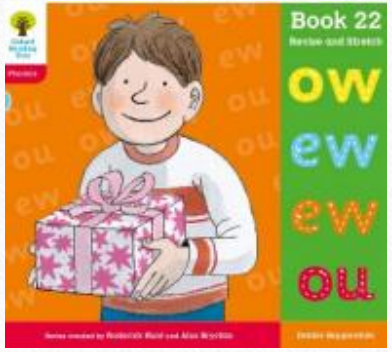
The teaching of reading in which phonemes (sounds) associated with particular graphemes (letters) are pronounced in isolation and blended together (synthesised). For example, children are taught to take a single-syllable word such as **cat** apart into its three letters, pronounce a phoneme for each letter in turn /k, æ, t/, and blend the phonemes together to form a word.

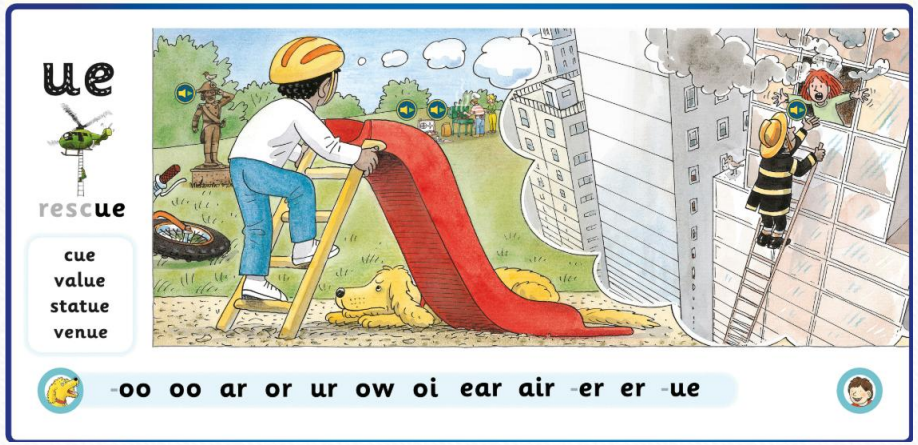
At Trull School, we teach phonics using ***Floppy's Phonics***. Phonics is taught in systematic phases. In Reception, each new phoneme is introduced with an action, and a song as part of our multi-sensory approach.

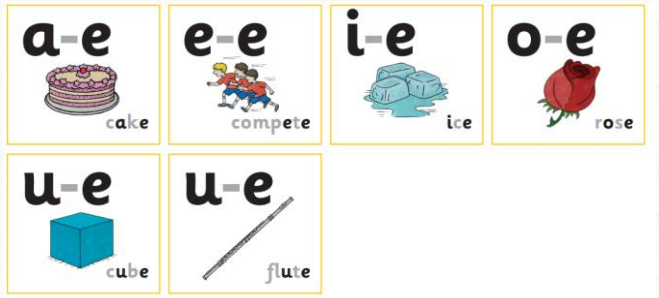
Phonics Lessons

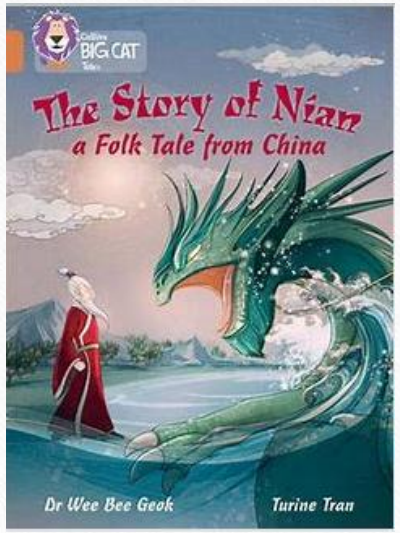
From the beginning of their Reception year the children are immersed in a language rich environment, with stories, rhymes, music and songs. These are all crucial for developing speaking and listening, prior to reading.

Phonics lessons are taught discretely in Reception and Key Stage 1 and follow a clear and consistent model.





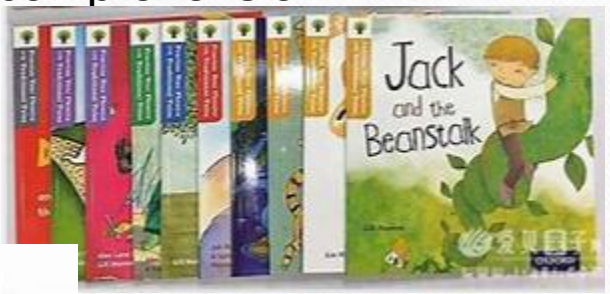




Phonetically Decodable Reading Books

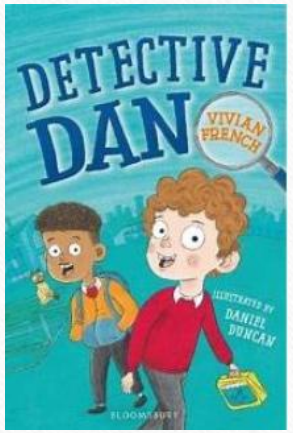
Regular reading practice is essential.

- The more your child practises, the better a reader they'll become!
- Each book should be re-read to ensure fluency and comprehension.
- Please also log on to the **Oxford Owl** online books.



Comprehension and Vocabulary

Understanding what they have read and building vocabulary are fundamental to reading success. It is therefore crucial that, even when your child becomes a fluent reader, they continue to practise regularly at home to continue to develop these skills and foster a love of learning.



Phoneme

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a word.

There are 44 phonemes .

Grapheme

A letter or letters that represent a phoneme

e.g.

c ai igh

Children need to practise recognising the grapheme and saying the phoneme that it represents (and vice versa!)

The 44 phonemes

/b/	/d/	/f/	/g/	/h/	/j/	/k/	/l/	/m/	/n/	/ng/
/p/	/r/	/s/	/t/	/v/	/w/	/y/	/z/	/th/	/th/	/ch/
/sh/	/zh/	/a/	/e/	/i/	/o/	/u/	/ae/	/ee/	/ie/	/oe/
/ue/	/oo/	/ar/	/ur/	/au/	/er/	/ow/	/oi/	/air/	/ear/	/ure/

Blending

Recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example

c-u-p

and merging or ‘blending’ them in the order in which they are written to read the word ‘cup’

Segmenting

‘Chopping Up’ the word to spell it out

The opposite of blending

Use ‘sound talk’ or ‘robot speak’

Tricky Words

Words that are not phonetically decodable

e.g. was, the, I

Some are ‘tricky’ to start with but will become decodable once we have learned ‘alternative’ graphemes in ‘Phase 5’
e.g. out, like,

he	she	we	me	be	was
you	they	all	are	my	her

said	have	like	so	do	some
come	were	there	little	one	when
out	what				

people	Mr	Mrs	looked	called	asked
could	oh	their			

We move on from single letters to...

Digraphs – 2 letters that make 1 sound

ch sh th oa ai

Trigraphs – 3 letters that make 1 sound

igh air

Split Digraphs

a-e came

i-e kite

u-e tune

e-e Steve

o-e poke

Phase 5 phonics

The children learn new graphemes to represent phonemes they already know.

For example, the phoneme ‘ee’ can be represented in many different ways.

They also learn alternative pronunciations for graphemes they already know.

For example, ow in cow and ow in snow.
ea in sea and ea in bread

As we progress they investigate further spelling alternatives.

For example, ch, tch, t
/n/ (as in gnat), /n/ (as in knit), /r/ (as in wrap),

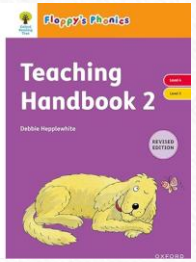
Application of Phonics into Writing

In Reception the children are taught a grapheme (letter/s) for each one of the 44 phonemes (sounds). This means that they are then able to write anything that they choose!

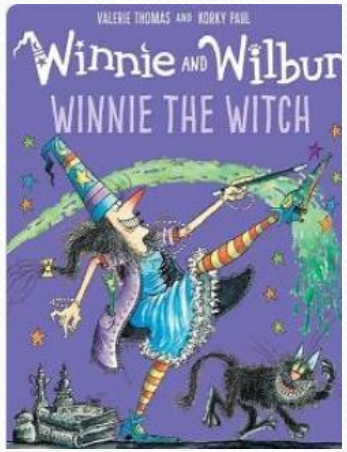
As they move into Year 1 the children are taught alternative graphemes. The expectation is that they apply these rules, with the help of a phoneme mat. Our aim is for the children to leave Key Stage 1 fluent readers, with the skills to blend in order decode unknown words and the confidence to segment words in order to attempt more difficult spellings as they move into Key Stage 2.

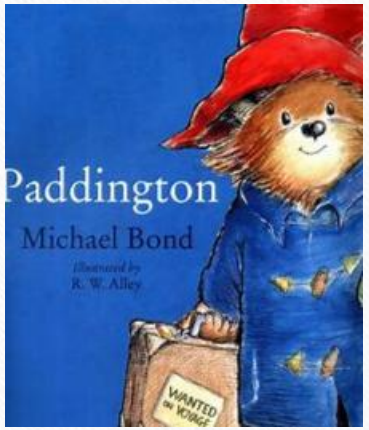
How can you help at home?

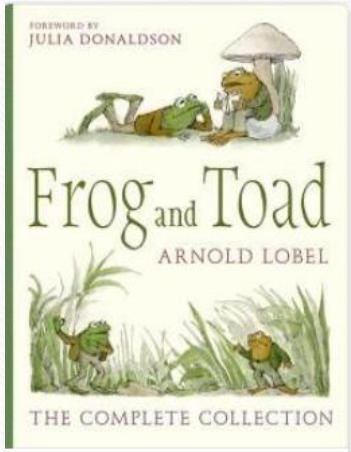
Practise the graphemes and tricky words.

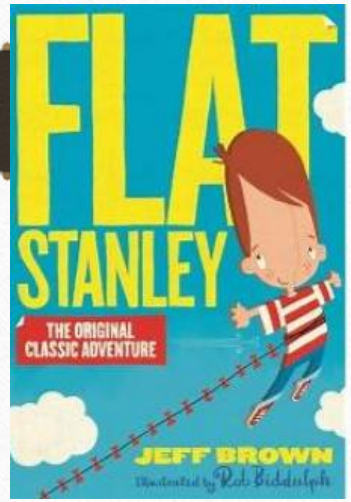


Look out for digraphs/ tricky words in the environment or in story books. Encourage children to notice and read print in the world around them.









How can you help at home ?

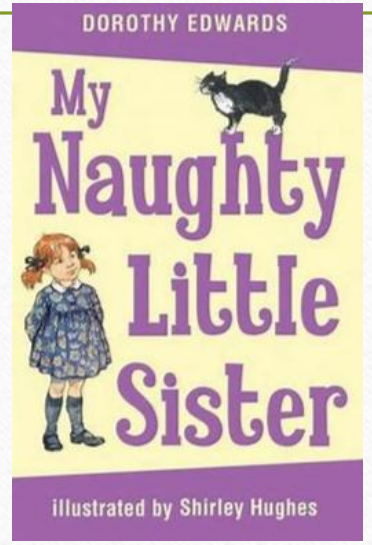
Practise reading with your child as regularly as possible.

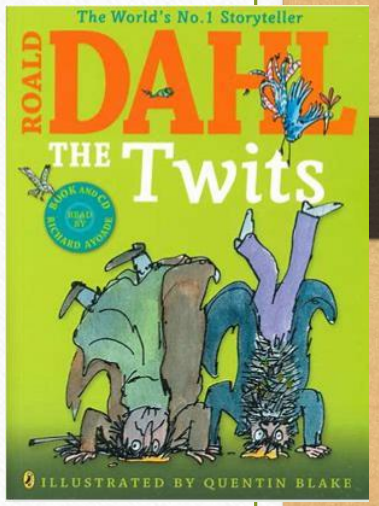
Help them articulate phonemes correctly.

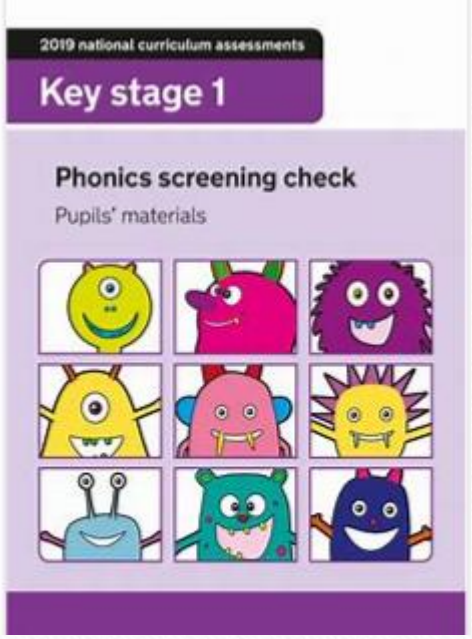
Articulation of Phonemes

Little and often is the key.

Keep reading to and sharing good quality books with your children. Our aim is to develop a love of reading.







Year 1 DFEE Phonics Check

In June each Year 1 child will be tested on reading 20 real words and 20 nonsense words. The aim is to ensure that the children have the skills to phonetically decode unknown words.