

How we teach Phonics

At Brede Primary School, our ambition is that all children are able to read by the time they leave us. We have a 'keep up' not 'catch up' approach when it comes to reading in our school and we wish to foster a genuine love of reading for all our pupils.

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read and write by blending and segmenting individual sounds. We follow a phonics programme that systematically builds on skills and knowledge of previous learning.

Children throughout Reception and Key stage 1 take part in daily phonics sessions. These sessions focus on key reading skills such as decoding to read words and segmenting the sounds in a given word to spell. During Phonics lessons we also teach children to read and write 'tricky words'. These are words that you cannot sound out and children are just expected to remember how to read and write.

At Brede, we also use our phonics sessions to develop vocabulary by ensuring words have a context and visual aids are provided to promote understanding of new language. Additionally, when we are revisiting sounds, words get progressively more challenging in order to expand our children's vocabulary.

Glossary of key terms used in our phonics sessions

- Digraph – two letters make one sound (e.g. sh, ch, ai, ea, ou, ow).
- Trigraph – three letters make one sound (e.g. igh, ear, air).
- Split digraph – a Digraph that is split by a consonant. Usually a long vowel sound, e.g. 'a-e' (cake), 'i-e' (five), 'o-e' (code), 'e-e' (sphere) and 'u-e' (rule). Usually a long vowel sound, e.g. 'a-e' (cake), 'i-e' (five), 'o-e' (code), 'e-e' (sphere) and 'u-e' (rule).
- Phoneme – a single unit of sound
- Grapheme – a written letter, or group of letter that represent a sound.
- Blend – to put or merge the sounds together to make a word (e.g. the sounds d-o-g are blended to the word 'dog'.)
- Segment – to break down the word into its individual sounds to spell (e.g. cat can be split into the sounds c-a-t.).
- Sound buttons – ways of visually isolating different sounds in a word. We use a dot under letters where one letter makes one sound and a line underneath digraphs or trigraphs.

How you can help at home

Children in KS1 have a phonetically decodable book, which is banded at their reading ability. It is important that children read their book each day at home to help build their fluency and enjoyment.

Useful Links

Please click on the link below to see how we pronounce our sounds.

https://youtu.be/TTe5_Em0BHQ