

Phonics

Phonics is fun!

We provide lots of fun opportunities for children to listen and contribute to rhymes and poems, exploring words and meaning. At Avondale we use a new systematic, synthetic phonics planning programme using the Letters and Sounds approach titled *Red Rose Letters and Sounds*. Phonics is taught daily in small groups. The programme includes covers Phase 2 to Phase 5 with specific daily sessions and a very rigorous approach to meet, and exceed, expectations based on the Early Learning Goals and the National Curriculum for Year One. The intent behind *Red Rose Letters and Sounds* is to provide a rigorous and thorough programme in order to strengthen the teaching and learning of phonics, and ensure children become enthusiastic and successful readers and writers. Children are given the opportunity to consolidate the skills taught throughout the continuous provision.

Parent video: How to support phonic learning

Click on the link to find out more - <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/phonics-videos/>



What is phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching reading matching sounds to letters and groups of letters.

The English alphabet writing system has only 26 letters to write the 44 English speech sounds. This means that the same letter, or groups of letters, can represent more than one sound. For example:

The letter 'a' as in 'cat' can also be used to write *ay* in 'angel'.

The letter 'l' as in 'pin' can also be used to write the sound *igh* in 'find'.

Before children can start to read, they need to learn to:

- Say the sound that is represented by each letter and group of letters
- 'sound out' words, e.g. c-a-t, sh-i-p, s-t-o-p.

Parent video: What is Phonics?

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Pure sounds

- When teaching children to say the sounds, it's important to say the pure sounds. This means that we say *mmmm* not *muh* and *llll* not *luh*. This will really help children when they come to join sounds together to read words, because it's easier to put 'm-a-t' together than 'muh-a-tuh'.

Parent video: How to pronounce pure sounds

Click on the link to find out how to pronounce all 44 phonics sounds, or phonemes, used in the English language with these helpful examples. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/phonics-videos/>



Sound Talk

Pupils are taught during phonic sessions how to practice blending sounds together to read words. We encourage pupils to use sound buttons as they sound talk each sound separately, then the children repeat and blend the sounds to read the word cat.

Parent video: How to blend sounds to read words

Click on the link to find out how letter sounds can be blended to read words, and gives tips on how to practice phonics with your child. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/phonics-videos/>



Sound Blending Books

When children are ready and they can blend sounds, they will be given a reading book to bring home.

At home you will be able to listen to your child read the books. Ask your child to:



1. Say the word in 'Sound Talk' and then read the word.
2. Turn over the page to reveal the picture to see if he/she is right.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WITH PHONICS AT HOME –

- **Overview of Phase 2 Phonics**
- **Overview of Phase 3 Phonics**
- **Trajectory Phonic Expectations for Reception**