

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 Letters and Sounds to teach children to read and write, at the same time as developing their spoken language, vocabulary, grammar and spelling. Phonics is taught daily in small groups. All phonics sessions are planned for by the teaching staff and teaching assistants are trained to deliver phonics sessions. Children are given the opportunity to consolidate the skills taught throughout the continuous provision.

Letters and Sounds

Our Phonics scheme is Letters and Sounds.



Letters and Sounds is a phonics resource published by the Department for Education and Skills in 2007. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting by the age of five, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers by age seven.

You can find out more about the Letters and Sounds scheme and download all appropriate learning resources directly from their [website](#).

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?

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



Pure sounds

- When teaching children to say the sounds, it's important to say the pure sounds. This means that we say *mmmmm* not *muh* and *lllll* 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 –

- VIDEOS RECEPTION PHONIC LESSON