

# Key Stage 1 Phonics and Reading

## What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read. They are taught how to:

- Recognise the sound that each individual letter makes
- Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make eg sh and oo
- Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word
- Children can then use this knowledge to segment and blend new words that they hear or see.
- Phonics is taught in phases 1-6. Each phase has a number of different sounds.

## Why Phonics?

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way - starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex - it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read.

## What is the phonics screening check?

The phonics screening check is a quick check of your child's ability to decode words using only his or her phonic knowledge. It helps us to confirm whether your child has met the expected standard for a child at the end of Year 1.

The check is a statutory requirement for all children in Year 1 and takes place each year in the summer term. Children who did not take the check in Year 1, or who did not meet the expected standard, will take the check again at the end of Year 2.

## Reading

At Fishergate School we use the Bug Club reading scheme from Early Years. The scheme closely follows the phonics teaching in class and is directly linked to each child's phonics phase.

Once children are confident in their reading and have good understanding phonics they will move on to 'free reader' books. All children in school will be involved with guided reading sessions which develop comprehension skills.