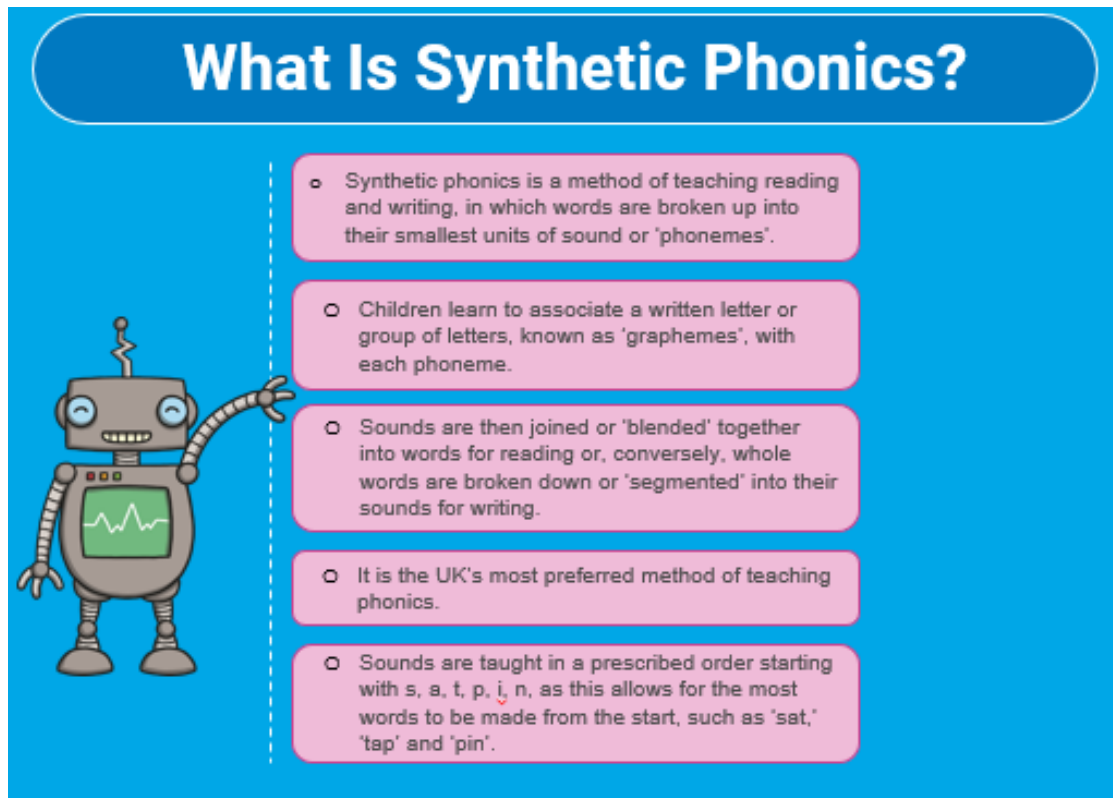


Phonics

At Offenham CE First School we use the DFE validated phonics programme, produced by Twinkl Phonics, to teach phonics across the school.

The programme is designed for daily use from the beginning of Reception, enabling children to make a smooth transition from Reception to Key Stage one. The daily lesson plans cover all the main Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondences (GPCs) and Common Exception Words (CEWs) to provide children with the phonic knowledge and skills required for success in the Year one Phonics Screening Check and beyond.

An infographic with a blue background. At the top, a white rounded rectangle contains the title 'What Is Synthetic Phonics?'. On the left, a cartoon robot with a screen on its chest and a vertical dashed line next to it points towards the text. On the right, five pink rounded rectangles contain bullet points.

What Is Synthetic Phonics?

- Synthetic phonics is a method of teaching reading and writing, in which words are broken up into their smallest units of sound or 'phonemes'.
- Children learn to associate a written letter or group of letters, known as 'graphemes', with each phoneme.
- Sounds are then joined or 'blended' together into words for reading or, conversely, whole words are broken down or 'segmented' into their sounds for writing.
- It is the UK's most preferred method of teaching phonics.
- Sounds are taught in a prescribed order starting with s, a, t, p, i, n, as this allows for the most words to be made from the start, such as 'sat,' 'tap' and 'pin'.

Much evidence has been collated in recent years to demonstrate that teaching children to read words using Synthetic Phonics has a positive effect on children's long-term ability to read and comprehend text.

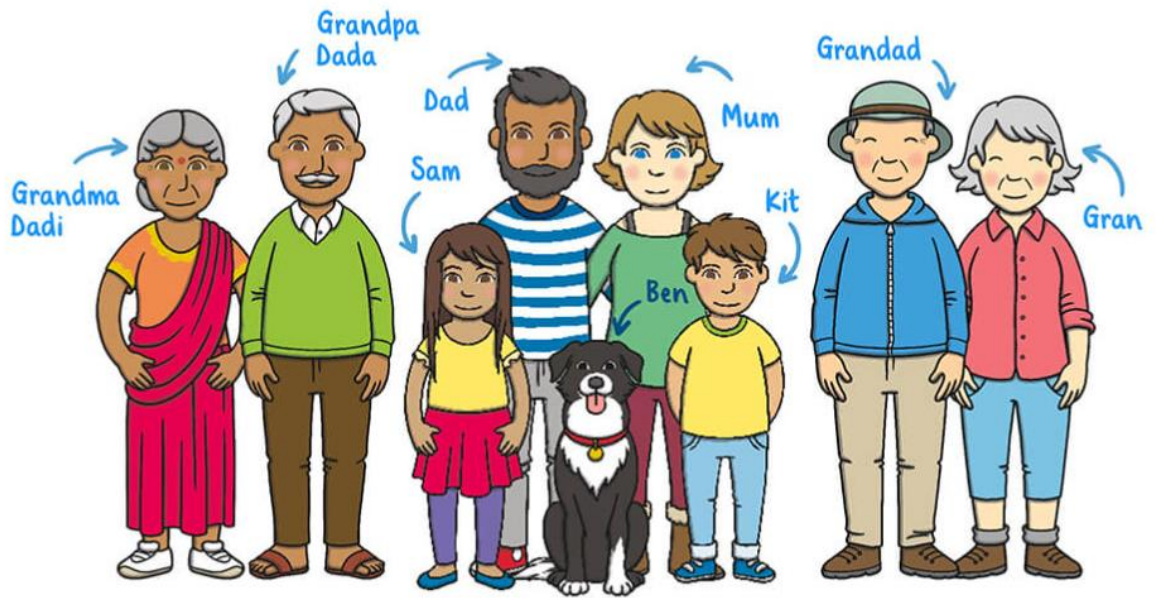
Although it is true that many English words are not entirely phonically regular, the fact remains that around half of all words are completely decodable if the reader has the necessary toolkit of GPCs. This means that if we teach children to read words using a Synthetic Phonics approach, we are equipping them to read, at their first attempt, at least half of all words in the English language and to have a good chance of working out the tricky GPCs in most of the remaining words.

In a synthetic phonics programme like Twinkl Phonics, children are first taught the most common GPCs in the English language so that they can quickly begin to apply this knowledge to read whole words (blending), and soon after, to spell them (encoding). Over the course of the programme, they will be introduced to a number of alternative ways of representing the same phonemes, including some of the less common GPCs.

We have a clear programme and clear expectations about what sounds will be taught and when they are taught. Alongside this sits the Common Exception Words that your child will be taught.






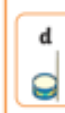




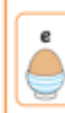






Your child's phonic knowledge will be matched to your child's reading book in order for them to continue to practise these skills when reading both at home and school. Your support at home is key to your child's success.

Meet the phonics family who you will encounter in reading books and who the children encounter in their daily phonic lessons.



Below you will find charts to help you support your child at home. Miss Ree has produced a video to help you with correct pronunciation of the pure sounds.

Level 2 Actions and Mnemonics

s  Make an snake's head with your hands and wiggle your body like a snake.	a  Hold an apple like a crumpled apple.	t  Hold an teapot with a teapot around a teapot.	p  Make an hand with a piggy's head and put it with your other hand.	i  Put your hands like an insect's wings.
n  Make your nose like a red and top it.	m  Mouthing that your mouth.	d  Play your drum.	g  Pretend to play the guitar.	o  Pretend to squeeze a juicy orange.
c  Mouthing your finger like a caterpillar.	k  Pretend to kick your hand like a kick and fly it in the air.	e  Make an egg with one hand and leg in with the other.	u  Make one hand into an umbrella and openable your arm in.	r  Mouthing your arms like a robot.
h  Pretend to open the door of the house.	b  Pretend to throw and catch a ball.	f  Pretend to wave a magic wand.	l  Pretend to lick an ice lolly.	

Every sound has a corresponding action and mnemonic which helps children to remember them. You can support your child by modelling the same sounds and actions at home.

twinkl.com

Level 3 Actions and Mnemonics

 j Make your hand go like a jack-in-the-box.	 v Make your hand go like a violin.	 w Make waves with your hand.	 x Make your hand go like a scissor.	 y Play with your yo-yo.	 z Make the zipper go like a zipper.
 qu Make a quack sound.	 ch Make your hand go like a chick.	 sh Put a shell in your hand.	 th Put your thumb on your hand to make a thumb.	 th Put your hand on your tooth to make a tooth.	 ng Put your ring on your hand.
 ai Make an apple sound.	 ee Make your hand go like an egg.	 igh Put your hand on your high-heeled shoe.	 ea Put your hand on your ear.	 oo Put your hand on your eye.	 oo Put your hand on your open book.
 ar Make a star sound.	 or Put your hand on your orange.	 ur Put your hand on your urinal.	 ow Put your hand on your owl.	 oi Put your hand on your oil can.	 ear Put your hand on your ear.
 air Put your hand on your fan.	 ure Put your hand on your urine can.	 er Put your hand on your eraser.			

It is really important that children learn to form the letters using the correct letter formation when writing. As they are introduced to a new sound, children are taught how to write it correctly. It would be great if you could also model this at home.

Level 5 Mnemonics

 ay pig	 oy boy	 ie tie	 ea leaf	 a_e cake	 i_e slide	 o_e bone	 u_e cube
 u_e flute	 e_e trapeze	 ou mouth	 a acorn	 e equal	 i lion	 o hotel	 u unicorn
 ch chef	 ch Christmas	 ir girl	 ue statue	 ue glue	 y sunny	 aw saw	 au autumn
 ow window	 oe toe	 wh wheel	 c city	 g gem	 ph dolphin	 ea bread	 ie shield
 tch witch	 are bare	 ear pear	 ore ore	 ew screw	 ew stew		

The new sound is displayed within a word linked to the mnemonic for Level 5.



Below is a table outlining some of the meaning of the words your child or their teacher may use:

Phoneme	the smallest unit of sound in words
Grapheme	the written representation of a sound
GPC (Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondence)	being able to match a phoneme with the correct grapheme and vice versa
Blending	joining individual speech sounds together to read a word
Segmenting	breaking down words into individual speech sounds to spell a word
Digraph	two letters making one sound e.g. 'sh'
Trigraph	three letters making one sound e.g. 'igh'
Split Digraph	two letters making one sound which are divided by a consonant e.g. the i_e sound in the word 'side'
Tricky/Common Exception Words	words that are not fully decodable such as 'the' and 'was'
Sound buttons	circles or spots that can be written underneath a sound to support reading
Sound bars	lines that can be written underneath digraphs or trigraphs to show that the letters make one sound
Mnemonic	a visual prompt to help children remember a sound

At the beginning of each academic year parents have the opportunity to come into school and participate in a parents' phonic presentation from the classteacher.

We hope you will join us.