

Overview of phonic phases

Letters and Sounds	Approximate stage / age	Phonics teaching	Tricky words
Phase 1	Nursery / Reception – ongoing	Supports the importance of speaking and listening and develops children’s discrimination of sounds, including letter sounds. Activities are divided into seven aspects, including environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and finally oral blending and segmenting	
Phase 2	Autumn term of reception	Children to be taught the phase 2 phonemes in the following order alongside the written grapheme. Set 1 – s, a, t, p Set 2 - i, n, m, d Set 3 – g, o, c, k Set 4 – ck, e, u, r Set 5 – h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss o Children to be taught to orally blend and segment CVC words using the phase 2 phonemes.	the, to, l, no, go
Phase 3	Spring and summer term of reception	Set 6 – j, v, w, x Set 7 – y, z, zz, qu (last of Letters and Sounds ‘sets’) - sh, th, ch, ng - ai, ee, long oo, short oo - oa, ar, or, igh - ur, ow, oi, ear - er, air, ure Completes the teaching of the alphabet and moves on to sounds represented by more than one letter. The children will learn letter names and how to read and spell some tricky words	he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, they, her, all, are
Phase 4	Summer term of reception (revisited in Autumn 1, Year 1)	The children learn to read and spell words containing adjacent consonants o Children to revise and recall all Phase 2 and 3 phonemes. o Children to read and write CCVC and CVCC words.	said, so, have, like, some, come, were, there, little, one, do, when, out, what
Phase 5	Autumn 2, Spring, Summer of Year 1	The children broaden their knowledge of sounds for use in reading and spelling. They will begin to build word-specific knowledge of the spellings of words. <i>Sounds:</i> ay, ou, ie, ea, oy, ir, ue, aw, wh, ph, ew, oe, au, ey, a_e, i_e, u_e, o_e	oh, their, people, Mr, Mrs, looked, called, asked
Phase 6	Throughout Year 2 and beyond	Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters etc	