



Our approach to teaching phonics

What is phonics?



Phonics Bug

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Phonics is one method of teaching children how to read and write.

Phonics is all about sounds. There are 44 sounds in the English language, which we put together to form words.

Some are represented by one letter, like 't', and some by two or more, like 'ck' in duck and 'air' in chair.

Children are taught the sounds first, then how to match them to letters, and finally how to use the letter sounds for reading and spelling.

Synthetic phonics refers to 'synthesising', or blending, the sounds to read words. It is based on the idea that children should sound out unknown words and not rely on their context.

How often do we teach phonics?

All children in Reception and Year 1 are taught phonics. These phonic lessons take place each day, in class. Some older children also have phonics lessons and these may take place each day or less frequently. Our approach to the teaching of spelling has phonics as one key thread.

What phonics scheme do we use?

We use the government validated phonic scheme, Bug Club Phonics. Bug Club Phonics is a synthetic phonics program that provides everything needed to help children succeed in early reading. It combines a comprehensive teaching program and fully decodable print books with an online reading world which includes eBooks, interactive assessments and games. Information about it can be found -

<https://www.pearson.com/en-au/educator/primary/browse-resources-online/english/bug-club/bug-club-phonics/>

What is the sequence that we teach phonics – which order do we teach the sounds?

Bug Club Phonics is organised in phases and within each phase, children progress through learning the different elements of phonics, as set out below. Our aim is that all children, except those with specific learning needs, will know and use all the elements of phonics up to Phase 5 by the end of Year 1. Any children that do not reach this attainment, are given further phonics lessons and, if needed, other support, as they progress through school.

Phonic Phase	BB	Set / Unit	Focus	Fiction	Non-fiction
Phase 1	Lilac		Phonemic awareness		
Phase 2	Pink 3	1-2	satpinmd		
		3	gock		
	Pink 2	4	ckeur		
		5	hbffllss		
Phase 3	Red 1	6	jvwx		
		7	yzzqu		
	Red 2	8	ch sh th ng		
		9	ai ee igh oa oo		
		10	ar or ur ow oi		
		11	ear air ure er		



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'Love one another as I have loved you.'



Phase 4	Yellow	12	Consolidation		
Phase 5	Blue 1	13	wh ph		
		14	ay a-e igh/ey/ei (long a)		
		15	ea e-e ie/ey/y (long e)		
	Blue 2	16	ie i-e y l (long i)		
		17	ow o-e o/oe (long o)		
		18	ew ue u-e (long u) u/oul (short oo)		
	Blue 3	19	aw au ai		
		20	ir er ear		
	Green 1	21	ou oy		
		22	ere/ear are/ear		
		Green 2	23	c k ck ch	
	24		ce/ci/cy scr/sti se		
	Green 3	25	ge/gu/gy dge		
Orange 1	26	le mb kn/gn wr			
	Orange 2	27	tch sh ea zh (w)a o		