



Stoke Fleming Primary School

# Phonics Workshop for Year 1

# Workshop for parents

- \* What is phonics?
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# What is phonics?

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

- \* recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;
- \* identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'; and
- \* blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see.

This is the first important step in learning to read.

# 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. It is particularly helpful for children aged 5 to 7.

Almost all children who receive good teaching of phonics will learn the skills they need to tackle new words. They can then go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently, and to read for enjoyment.

Children who have been taught phonics also tend to read more accurately than those taught using other methods, such as ‘look and say’. This includes children who find learning to read difficult, for example those who have dyslexia.

If you would like to find out more about phonics, visit the phonics section of the Department for Education website.

# What is the Phonics screening check?

The phonics screening check is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge. It helps your school confirm whether your child has made the expected progress.

How does the check work?

- \* Your child will sit with a teacher he or she knows and be asked to read 40 words aloud.
- \* Your child may have read some of the words before, while others will be completely new.
- \* The check normally takes just a few minutes to complete and there is no time limit. If your child is struggling, the teacher will stop the check. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

# How can you help?

Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents play a very important part in helping with this.

- \* Follow the school's approach
- \* Focus on sounds in their reading
- \* Encourage sounding out of words
- \* Read with your child every day
- \* Play games like I-spy.

Questions?