

What is Phonics?

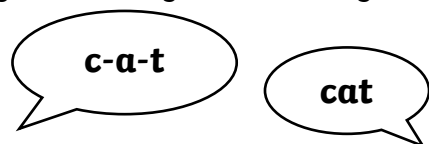
Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another in the English language. Understanding phonics will also help children know which letters to use when they are writing words. Here at Hutton All Saints', we teach children how to read using a systematic synthetic phonics programme; after researching various schemes, we have chosen *Read Write Inc*, which is one of the more well-known programmes.

The children start by learning **Set 1 Sounds**:

Each unit of sound is called a **phoneme**. In Set 1, most of the phonemes are represented by a single letter **grapheme** (how the phoneme is written). A few of the phonemes nearer the end of the set are **digraphs** – graphemes with 2 letters.

Once the children have learnt the first few phonemes, they can start to practise phonics in different ways:

- **blending orally** – the phonemes in a word are **segmented** (said separately) and the pupils **blend** them together to say the word, e.g.



- **reading and writing VC** (vowel, consonant) and **CVC** (consonant, vowel, consonant) words, e.g. *it, up, sip, ten, hat, dog*.

It is vitally important that the children learn to say each phoneme correctly. Watch this video for the correct pronunciations:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q&list=PLDe74j1F52zSCiOMSn3zQDSzgu9TrbQ1c&index=5>

Speed Sounds Set 1

m	a	s	d	t
i	n	p	g	o
c	k	u	b	f
e	l	h	sh	r
j	v	y	w	th
z	ch	qu	x	ng nk

Speed Sounds Set 2

ay	ee	igh	ow	oo
oo	ar	or	air	ir
ou	oy			

Speed Sounds Set 3

ea	oi			
a-e	i-e	o-e	u-e	aw
are	ur	er	ow	ai
oa	ew	ire	ear	ure

The children then move onto **Set 2 Sounds**:

These are **digraphs** and **trigraphs** (graphemes with 3 letters). Once they have learnt Set 2 Sounds, children now know a grapheme for most sounds, and can make **phonetically plausible attempts** at spelling words (e.g. cup of tee; a cou says moo).

When children are introduced to **Set 3 Sounds**, they learn alternative graphemes for many of the phonemes they have already learnt, e.g. ow = oa; ir = ur = er. Some of these are **split digraphs** - 2 letter graphemes which are split by another letter. In a split digraph, the children are taught that the e at the end is silent, e.g. kite; stone; bake. A few more complex trigraphs are also covered.

The children now know at least 1 grapheme for all of the phonemes. They learn alternative graphemes as and when they are encountered in books, e.g. c = k = ck.