



## Reading and Phonics at New Delaval Primary School

Reading is an essential element of all learning. We aim to teach the skills of reading and to foster a lifelong love of language. Children bring books home from their earliest days in school. We view the education of children as a partnership with parents and ask them to read with their children as often as possible. Reading books are levelled carefully and children work systematically through each level at their own pace.

Children are formally assessed on a termly basis.

All children read daily in school under the direction of staff. Much of their reading will be done in the literacy hour, but individual reading will also occur. All of the children have access to the school library where they can borrow books to bring home and share.

Reading Schemes in School:-

- Oxford Reading Tree Heinemann
- Phonics Bug Club – including electronic copies.
- Ginn All Aboard Bangers and Mash
- Rhyme World Story World
- Oxford Reading World

We also include a large selection of non-scheme books within the levels.

### Phonics

#### What is phonics?

Phonics is the system of 'blending' sounds together to read, and 'segmenting' sounds to spell. They are both complimentary and interlinking skills that are taught together. You may hear your children use some vocabulary that you are not familiar with that they have learnt in their phonics lessons.

#### A phoneme

Is the smallest unit of sound that we use in the English language. A phoneme can be made up of one letter as in the alphabet sounds – s, a, t, p, i, n etc, or two letters (a digraph) as in sh, ch, th, ay, ar, or three letters (trigraphs) as in air, ear, ure. Phonemes cannot be broken down into separate sounds.

### A grapheme

Is the way we spell a phoneme. A phoneme may have only one grapheme for example 'b'. Or may have several different spellings –for example or can be spelt 'or' in torn, 'aw' in claw, 'au' in naughty or ore in more. The children will initially be introduced to one common grapheme for each phoneme, but as they progress through the school they will be taught the less common spelling alternatives and encouraged to try and choose the correct grapheme for a particular word they are trying to spell.

### Consonant blends

Are made up of two or three phonemes blended together quite quickly as we learn to read.

Examples are sc, sm, bl, pr, str

### Short Vowel Sounds

Are the vowels saying their sound as 'a' in c a t.

### Long Vowel Sounds

Are the vowels saying their name as 'ay' in day, 'oa' in boat or 'igh' in night.

### **How do we teach Phonics at our school?**

Phonics lessons are taught daily in every class for approximately 20 minutes. We use a mixture of different resources and teaching styles to engage and motivate the children, including magnetic boards and letters, whiteboards and pens, games, flashcards and a lively visual program 'Fast Phonics First' on our Interactive whiteboards. We have phonic based guided reading books for teachers to use with groups when teaching reading and there are some phonic based home readers in all book boxes.

### How can you help your child?

Children working in Foundation use the Basic Code of phonemes to help them identify the correct spelling patterns (graphemes) when writing. During year 1 and year two they will move onto using the Advanced Code which shows them an increased range of different spelling patterns for each sound. It will be useful to revise the phonemes your child has learnt that week at school and also later to go over some from previous weeks to reinforce their learning. It is also very beneficial to point out some phonemes when reading at home with your child, particularly those recently learnt. Key words will be sent home as cards in Foundation classes and later written in reading records for year one and two children to learn. Please help your child practise recognition of these as this is another important skill to master.

Please note both the links to Basic Code and Advanced Code are to Word documents. You will need to have Microsoft Word or a compatible program installed to view them. They may also be saved and printed out if you wish.

Phonics Articulation go to the DCSF (Department for Children Schools and Families) website where there is a video demonstration showing the articulation of phonemes (vowels and consonants). The video may be watched on line or downloaded in Quick time and Windows Media Player formats.

Useful Web-sites.

BBC web-sites have a great range of activities

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/longvow/poems/fpoem.shtml>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/index.shtml>

This web site has information for parents and is split into phases – Your child's class teacher can let you know which phase your child is working on.

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Look at the Letters and Sounds Section on this web site.

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=40>

Parents School Leaflet Part 1 Guidance on the teaching of phonetics -letters and sounds.

Parents School Leaflet Part 2 Guidance on the teaching of phonetics -letters and sounds.

Parents School Leaflet Part 3 Guidance on the teaching of phonetics -letters and sounds.