

## **Phonics**

Phonics is the relationship between letters and the sounds letters make.

At Icknield Walk First School, phonics is used as the prime approach to teaching early reading. The teaching of phonics begins in developing children's listening skills and ability to hear sounds. They are then taught the visual recognition of letters and the sounds these and combinations of letters make. They are taught how to blend the sounds through a word to read and how to segment the sounds in order to write words. The children are taught to use these phonic skills as a prime approach to reading but are also taught words which do not completely follow the phonic rules. The teaching of phonics begins in the Foundation Stage, developing children's phonological awareness and then continues to be developed through Reception and KS1 as daily, discrete and systematic lessons. These sessions are taught in both ability groups and as a whole class. In KS2, phonics teaching is used to reinforce previous learning and as an intervention to support children who have not attained national expectations. In KS2 the teaching of spelling builds on the children's phonic skills. Children's learning is carefully tracked by the class teacher to ensure future lessons are planned appropriately.

For more information and ideas for supporting your child at home:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/article/the-alphablocks-guide-to-phonics>

Links for hearing phonemes

<http://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/demos/aaPrimary/Literacy/phonemes/Alphabet.html>

<http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading/resources/resources.aspx#phonemes>