

Information for Howden-Le-Wear Parents

At Howden-Le-Wear, we use Little Wandle Letters and Sounds to teach children to read in EYFS and KS1.

It teaches phonics in a systematic way, driving up standards in reading and writing.

This guide provides some information about how we teach children Phonics and ways you can help your child at home with Phonics and Reading.

In Nursery, Phase 1 teaches pre-reading skills through songs, vocabulary and modelled language through structured play and continuous provision.

This is where children start to show awareness that words are made up of different sounds.

From Reception, children start to learn the letters that make sounds. They will learn single sounds such as s, a, digraphs such as ai, ee and trigraphs such as ear and air.

These are broken down into sets so they can start making and reading lots of words very quickly.

This phase also teaches the skills children need to be able to blend and segment words.

When they enter Year 1, they will learn further sounds and begin exploring digraphs and trigraphs.

In Year 2 they should have a good understanding of the Phonics skills taught over the previous years and will learn spelling rules and alternative sounds and meanings.

Children will also learn non decodable words. These are words that cannot be sounded out to be blended.

Phase 1	Involved learning listening skills, using rhymes, music, songs, showing awareness of sounds in the environment and the sounds that make up words.
Phase 2	Learning which letters make which sounds, taught in sets. s a t p i n m d g o c k ck e u r h b f ff l all ss
Phase 3	Learning more letters that make sounds. j v w x y z zz qu Consonant digraphs – ch sh th ng Vowel digraphs – ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur ow oi ear air ure er
Phase 4	Practising all the above graphemes and blending to make words and learning to read and spell longer words.
Phase 5	New graphemes that are variations of previously taught sounds, new pronunciations for known letters, split digraphs (where the sound is split by another letter).

What can I do to help at home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games, such as musical statues, Simon says, I spy or seeing if they can identify sounds in the home or outside.
- Singing songs and nursery rhymes.
- Reading to and with your child and encouraging a love of reading and stories.
- Talk about what different words mean, this can be in stories or in the environment such as spotting logos and what they represent.
- Using magnetic letters to practise making words.
- Give them access to different writing materials to practise writing and forming sounds and words.

Some useful terms we will use when teaching Phonics

Phoneme	This is the smallest unit of sound in speech, there are three phonemes in the word cat – c-a-t, and 5 in the word rainbow – r-ai-n-b-ow.
Grapheme	This is the letter or group of letters that represent a phoneme or sound. Some examples of graphemes are 't' 'sh' 'ff' and 'igh'.
Decode	This is the process of seeing a written word and being able to read it aloud. This focuses on reading the word and not the meaning.
Segmenting	This is breaking down a word into individual sounds for spelling.
Blending	This is putting the sounds together to read the word.
Digraph	This is two letters that represent one sound such as 'ph' 'sh' and 'qu'.
Trigraph	This is three letters that represent one sound such as 'igh' 'ear' and 'air'.
Split digraph	This is two letters that make one sound but are separated by another letter such as the word 'game' the ay sound uses the a and e but are separated by the m.