



Phonics is a way of decoding written letters and spoken sounds. The phonics approach teaches children to decode words by sounds, rather than recognising whole words. This approach to learning to read is recommended as the first strategy that children should be taught in helping them to read and spell.

At Newbold Verdon we use a phonics teaching programme called Song of Sounds. With a song at its heart, this is a multi-sensory programme with kinaesthetic, auditory and visual activities that reinforce skills through a variety of learning styles.

Song of Sounds aims to build children's knowledge of the phonemes necessary to read and write English successfully. Song is integral to the programme to help children remember every phoneme from the very beginning of Reception and involves a highly active approach with whole body actions and lots of games to aid learning.

Song of Sounds brings phonics to life with a fresh, lively, hands-on approach to teaching phonics. It is divided into different stages for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and is taught to the whole class, with a whole morning of differentiated phonics activities once a week.

Stage 1 - Reception

In this stage your child will be learning to:

- * Have fun with sounds
- * Listen carefully
- * Develop their vocabulary
- * Speak confidently to you, other adults and other children
- * Tune into sounds

- * Listen and remember sounds
- * Talk about sounds
- * Understand that spoken words are made up of different sounds
- * Blend and segment phonemes (sounds)
- * Read and write tricky words
- * Read and spell a range of CVC, CCVC/CVCC and CCVCC words
- * Use letter names to develop an understanding of the order of the alphabet

Throughout the Reception year sounds are taught in groups in the following order:

s / a / t / p à i / n / m / d à g / o / c / k à ck / e / u / r à

h / b / f / ff / l / ll à j / v / w / x à y / z / zz / qu à ch / sh / th / ng
à

ay / ee / igh / ow à oo / oo / ar / or à er / ou / oy / air

Listen to the Song of Sounds Song here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48uf9I6P2xQ&t=5s>

Stage 2 - Year 1

In this stage your child will be learning to:

- * Discriminate between a new set of graphemes
- * Read and spell a new set of tricky words
- * Practise blending and segmenting
- * Understand vowels and consonants and their importance
- * Understand the difference between long and short vowel phonemes
- * Read and spell a range of CVC and CCVC/CVCC and CCVCC words
- * Discriminate syllables in multi-syllabic words

Throughout Year 1 sounds are taught in groups in the following order:

ay / ai / a-e à ee / ea / e-e à igh / ie / i-e à ow / oa / o-e à

oo / ew / u-e à er / ir / ur à or / aw / au à ou / ow à

oy / oi à air / are

Listen to the Year 1 song here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UQHdBMLk-M>

Stage 3- Year 2

In this stage your child will:

- *Continue to use phonic knowledge and skills to decode words until decoding is automatic and reading is fluent
- *Read accurately words of two or more syllables
- *Read words containing common suffixes
- *Read common exception words
- *Read most words quickly and accurately
- *Read aloud books closely matched to their phonic knowledge

Throughout Year 2 sounds are taught in groups in the following order:

Ey/ y/ ie/ c/ se/ ce/ ge/ dge/ g/ kn/ gn/ nn/ e/ el/ al/ a/ ar/ ore/
s/ ti/ ci/ wr/ ph/ wh/ o/ a/ or/