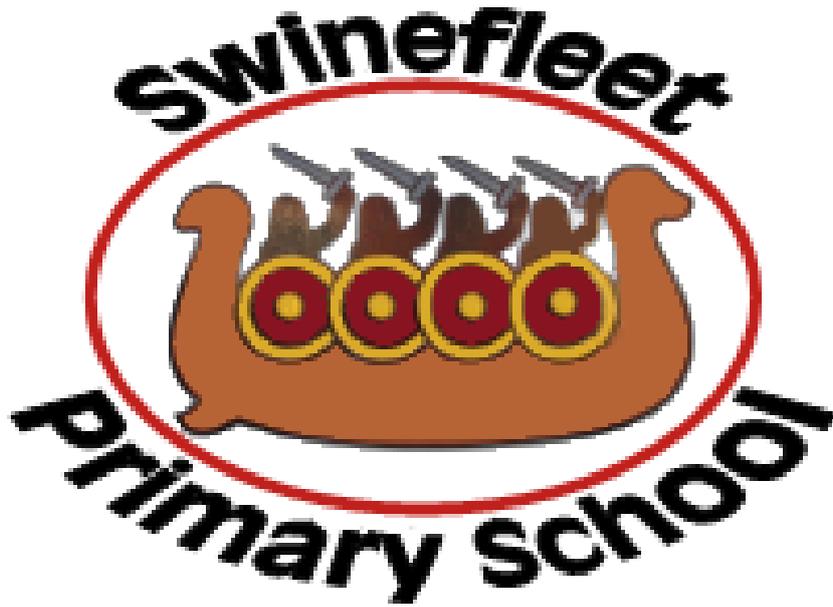


# Swinefleet Phonics Guide for Parents



## Parents' Guide to Phonics



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A guide to how phonics will help your child to read and spell.

Teachers at Swinefleet use their knowledge of phonics and strategies create a blend tailored to your individual children. A range of Letters and Sounds, Read Write Inc and Jolly Phonics are used in combination. Initially, for the children to learn their sounds we use a programme called Jolly Phonics. Jolly Phonics represents each sound with an action helping children to remember both more easily. A mixture of Letters and Sounds and Read Write Inc are then used to support children further in their reading and writing development in a fun, interactive way.

The alphabet contains only 26 letters. Spoken English uses about 44 sounds (phonemes). These phonemes are represented by letters (graphemes). In other words, a sound can be represented by a letter (e.g. 's' or 'h') or a group of letters (e.g. 'th' or 'ear').

Once children begin learning sounds, they are used quickly to read and spell words. This leaflet provides an overview of the teaching of letters and sounds at Swinefleet, to help you support your child.

There are six phases of letters and sounds taught from Nursery to Year 2. Phase 1 begins in Nursery, phases 2, 3 and 4 are taught in Reception and consolidated in Year 1. Children are then taught phase 5 in Year 1 and progress into phase 6 in Year 2. This is just an outline of how nationally phonics phases are undertaken, however Swinefleet tailor phonic to the specific needs of your child.

# Swinefleet Phonics Guide for Parents

## **Technical Vocabulary - *What do all the technical words mean?***

### ***What is a phoneme?***

It is the smallest unit of sound and a piece of terminology that children like to use and should be taught. At first it will equate with a letter sound but later on will include digraphs and trigraphs.

For example `rain' has three phonemes: r - ai - n.

### ***What is a grapheme?***

A grapheme is a letter or a number of letters that represent a sound (phoneme) in a word. Another way to explain it is to say that a grapheme is a letter or letters that spell a sound in a word. E.g. /ee/, /ea/, /ey/ all make the same phoneme but are spelt differently.

### ***What is a digraph?***

This is when two or more letters come together to make a phoneme. /oa/ makes the sound in boat.

### ***What is blending?***

Blending is the process that is involved in bringing the sounds together to make a word or a syllable and is how /c/ /a/ /t/ becomes cat.

To learn to read well children must be able to smoothly blend sounds together. Blending sounds fluidly helps to improve fluency when reading. Blending is more difficult to do with longer words so learning how to blend accurately from an early age is imperative.

Showing your child how to blend is important. Model how to blend sounds smoothly together without stopping at each individual sound.

# Swinefleet Phonics Guide for Parents

## ***What is segmenting?***

Segmenting is a skill used in spelling. In order to spell the word cat, it is necessary to segment the word into its constituent sounds; c-a-t.

Children often understand segmenting as 'chopping' a word. Before writing a word young children need time to think about it, say the word several times, 'chop' the word and then write it. Once children have written the same word several times they won't need to use these four steps as frequently.

Children will enjoy spelling if it feels like fun and if they feel good about themselves as spellers. We need, therefore, to be playful and positive in our approach - noticing and praising what children can do as well as helping them to correct their mistakes.

## ***What are tricky words?***

Tricky words are words that cannot be 'sounded-out' but need to be learned by heart. They don't fit into the usual spelling patterns. Examples of these words are attached under each phase. In order to read simple sentences, it is necessary for children to know some words that have unusual or untaught spellings. It should be noted that, when teaching these words, it is important to always start with sounds already known in the word, then focus on the 'tricky' part.

## ***What are high frequency words?***

High frequency (common) are words that recur frequently in much of the written material young children read and that they need when they write.



# Swinefleet Phonics Guide for Parents

The children will begin to learn to blend and segment to begin reading and spelling. This will begin with simple words.

Tricky words introduced in Phase 2:

the	to	I
go	no	into

## **Phase 3**

By the time they reach Phase 3, children will already be able to blend and segment words containing the 19 letters taught in Phase 2.

Over the twelve weeks which Phase 3 is expected to last, twenty-five new graphemes are introduced (one at a time).

Set 6 : j,v,w,x

Set 7: 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

Tricky words introduced in Phase 3:

you	he
they	she
all	we
are	me
my	be
her	was

# Swinefleet Phonics Guide for Parents

## Phase 4

By Phase 4 children will be able to represent each of 42 phonemes with a grapheme. They will blend phonemes to read *CCVC* and *CVCC* words and segment these words for spelling. They will also be able to read two syllable words that are simple. They will be able to read all the tricky words learnt so far and will be able to spell some of them.

This phase consolidates all the children have learnt in the previous phases.

Tricky words introduced in Phase 4:

said	were
have	there
like	little
so	one
do	when
some	out
come	what

## Phase 5

Children will be taught new graphemes and alternative pronunciations for these graphemes and graphemes they already know. They will begin to learn to choose the appropriate grapheme when spelling. The children will be automatically decoding a large number of words for reading by this point.

New graphemes for reading:

ay day	oy boy	wh when	a-e make
ou out	ir girl	ph photo	e-e these
ie tie	ue blue	ew new	i-e like

# Swinefleet Phonics Guide for Parents

<b>ea</b> eat	<b>aw</b> saw	<b>oe</b> toe	<b>o-e</b> home
		<b>au</b> Paul	<b>u-e</b> rule

Tricky words introduced in Phase 5:

oh	their	people	Mr	Mrs	looked
called	asked				

During this phase, children will begin reading words fluently and no longer be blending and segmenting familiar words.

The real focus throughout the phase is to not only learn the new graphemes for reading but also to learn to read words with alternative pronunciations. Children also will need to learn alternative spellings for each phoneme.

## **Phase 6**

In phase 6 children will be reading longer and less familiar texts independently and fluently. It is crucial that at this point children are now reading to learn and reading for **pleasure**.

Children should be able to read the 300 high frequency words. At this point it is important that comprehension strategies are developed so that children clarify meaning, ask and answer questions about the texts they are reading, construct mental images during reading and summarise what they have read.

In spelling children are introduced to the adding of suffixes and how to spell longer words. Throughout the phase children are encouraged to develop strategies for learning spellings.

# Swinefleet Phonics Guide for Parents

Strategy	Explanation
Syllables	To learn a word by listening to how many syllables there are so it can be broken into smaller bits. (e.g. Sep-tem-ber)
Base Words	To learn a word by finding its base word. (e.g. jumping-base word jump +ing)
Analogy	To learn a word use a word that is already learnt. (e.g. could, would, should)
Mnemonics	To learn a word by making up a sentence to help remember them. (e.g. could - OU Lucky Duck; people eat orange peel like elephants)
Homophones	<i>Homophones</i> are words that sound the same but have different spellings/meanings. For example sail/sale, see/sea.

## Useful websites:

<http://www.ictgames.com/lcwc.html> (an online version of look, cover, say, write, check where you can enter your own words)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/literacy/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/literacy/)

[www.northwood.org.uk/phonics](http://www.northwood.org.uk/phonics)

## Useful Apps:

My Spellings 2 by EpicBlu

Spell Mania by Fresh Logo SRL

Squeebles Spelling Test by KeyStageFun