

At St Michael's Woolmer Green school we use a systematic phonics programme called *Letters and Sounds*.

Letters and Sounds is divided into six phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. There are no big leaps in learning. Children have time to practise and rapidly expand their ability to read and spell words. They are also taught to read and spell 'tricky words', which are words with spellings that are unusual or that children have not yet been taught.

Phase 1 focuses on the children developing their listening skills and lets them hear the sounds in words as well as beginning to develop their ability to sound talk.

In phase 2 the children will continue practising what they have learned from phase 1 but they will also be taught the phonemes (*sounds*) for a number of letters (*graphemes*). As well as which phoneme is represented by which grapheme and that a phoneme can be represented by more than one letter. The children will also be practising oral blending (for reading) and segmenting (for spelling) skills daily.

Phase 3 consists of the children learning more graphemes, most of which are made of two letters, for example, 'oa' as in boat. They will also practise blending and segmenting a wider set of CVC words, learn all letter names and begin to form them correctly read more tricky words and begin to spell some of them as well as read and write words in phrases and sentences.

Phase 4 allows the children to continue to practise previously learned graphemes and phonemes as well as learning how to read and write CVCC words (consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant). They will also continue to read more tricky words and write sentences together.

All phonics sessions involve lots of speaking, listening and games, where the emphasis is on children's active participation. We use lots of different resources but the children particularly enjoy the interactive games on the website PhonicsPlay which could be accessed at home with a subscription.

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