



Reception Reading Meeting

Supporting your child's learning

Phonics at St Christopher's

- ▶ Phonics is:
- ▶ *A method of teaching children to read and pronounce words by learning the sounds represented by letters, letter groups, and syllables.*

Clearly there are a range of skills in reading - including...

- ▶ De-coding the words (phonics) - the starting point.
- ▶ Increasing sight vocabulary of high frequency words e.g. and, was, but, the etc.
- ▶ Reading with understanding.
- ▶ Reading for pleasure.
- ▶ Reading with inference (understanding the wider and deeper meaning of what is said)

What do children need to know about reading English?

- ▶ Symbols are used to represent individual sounds - left to right across the page.
- ▶ All sounds are represented by 1, 2, 3, or 4 letters.
- ▶ Some symbols represent more than 1 sound.
- ▶ The same sound may be written in more than one way.
- ▶ We use the sounds to build the words, **NOT** the letter names.
- ▶ Letters represent sounds - they don't make sounds.

Precise Pronunciation

Precise pronunciation of the letter sounds is vital – please see the link below to listen to how the letter sounds should be pronounced.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

What do children need to be able to do to read a word?

- ▶ Blend sounds (pushing sounds together to build a word)
- ▶ To blend the sounds together, point to each individual letter sound and then slide your finger along the word from the start, saying the sounds more quickly to read the word.

▶ m - a - t

▶ mat



Now try these

Remember - the pronunciation is key

mat

tip

bat

swift

splat

Words that don't work phonetically

- ▶ For example:
- ▶ said
- ▶ the
- ▶ what
- ▶ was

- ▶ These are learnt as a whole word.
- ▶ Just tell your child the word and please don't expect them to remember it when they next see it. They will eventually!

Next steps

- ▶ Some sounds are represented by more than one letter and children need to learn this.
- ▶ What will children say when asked what the shapes are?



▶ a



y



ay

- ▶ Two sounds read as one sound are called digraphs.
- ▶ Three sounds read as one sound trigraphs.

So when faced with two or more letters representing one sound they can learn to say a different sound.

For example

▶ ff

ea

▶ sh

ay

▶ th

oi

▶ ck

er

Longer Words

When faced with a longer word e.g.

sandwich

The children learn to break it into syllables and then read one syllable at a time and then blend it.



Phonics teaching groups

All children in Pre-Prep have a Phonics session for 20 minutes every day.

Children are grouped according to their stage of reading, not their age.

The reading books they are given are also related to the Phonics group they are working in.

Children are assessed every half term and will be moved according to their progress and needs.

Reading books are sent home on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Reading at home...

Read as much as you can.

Read all kinds of texts.

Read every day.

Hear them read.

Read to them.

Share the reading.

Discuss what you have read.

Ask questions as you go or at the end.

Model reading to them.

Represent reading as a pleasure and a treat.

Be patient!