

What is Letters and Sounds?

At Meadows we want our children to become successful readers who love reading. In order to decode (read) words children are taught through a systematic phonic approach, Children in Reception and Key Stage One follow the *DfES Letters and Sounds* program.



Letters and Sounds is a phonics resource published by the Department for Education and Skills in 2007. This is a daily approach to teaching phonics in which individual letters and sounds are blended to form words which will help with their reading. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting by the age of five, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers by age seven.

If you have any questions about phonics at Meadows then please speak to your child's class teacher.

Phase	Phonic Knowledge and Skills
<i>Phase One</i> (Nursery/Reception)	Activities are divided into seven aspects, including environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and finally oral blending and segmenting.
<i>Phase Two</i> (Reception) up to 6 weeks	Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each. Blending sounds together to make words. Segmenting words into their separate sounds. Beginning to read simple captions.
<i>Phase Three</i> (Reception) up to 12 weeks	The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Graphemes such as ch, oo, th representing the remaining phonemes not covered by single letters. Reading captions, sentences and questions. On completion of this phase, children will have learnt

	the "simple code", i.e. one grapheme for each phoneme in the English language.
<i>Phase Four</i> (Reception) 4 to 6 weeks	No new grapheme-phoneme correspondences are taught in this phase. Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump.
<i>Phase Five</i> (Throughout Year 1)	Now we move on to the "complex code". Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know.
<i>Phase Six</i> (Throughout Year 2 and beyond)	Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters etc.

Useful websites

[www.familylearning.org.uk- phonicsgames](http://www.familylearning.org.uk-phonicsgames)

BBC bitesize phonics games

[www.familylearning.org.uk -trickywords](http://www.familylearning.org.uk-trickywords)

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

www.phonicsplay.co.uk