

What is synthetic phonics?

In synthetic phonics the graphemes (written letters) and corresponding phonemes (units of sound) are taught before the introduction of words that contain these letters and sounds. To read these words children are taught to pronounce the individual phonemes (sounds) associated with the graphemes (letters) they see, and then to blend them together (synthesise) to form or decode the word, eg: in c-a-t.

Synthetic phonics teaches letter sounds very rapidly, explicitly showing how to build up words with sounds and the letters that represent them. In synthetic phonics blending sounds to hear and write words starts after the first few letters have been taught. Letters and sounds are taught in specific order and not in alphabetical order, eg: when the first group of 6 sounds and letters s,a,t,i,p,n have been taught children start to read and write regular words using these letters in words such as sat, pin, tap, pat, nip, etc.

In the summer term of year 1 all pupils will participate in the national phonics screening test.

Strategies we offer in our provision at COPASS

Daily phonics sessions using multi-sensory learning approach using the 'Phonics Bug' programme delivered in synthetic phonics for reading and spelling. This programme can begin in reception and is delivered daily in year 1. 'Phonics Bug' teachers a new grapheme and related phoneme in every phoneme session. This fast pace, backed up by daily revision of past teaching, is a most successful method of phonic training. The order of grapheme introduction matches that recommended by the DfES In Letters and Sounds (2007) and ensures that children are able to start reading and spelling a wide range of words at the earliest possible stage. The formation of the letters are taught at the same time as the sounds to help consolidate letters in the memory. Decodable common words are included for reading and spelling throughout Phonics bug. Common words that are not decodable (eg;, the, said) are taught as irregular words within the language sessions.

Language sessions occur at the end of each unit and combine the teaching of irregular words with using words in the context of captions and sentences. The language sessions serve to consolidate the teaching of reading and spelling in the phoneme sessions and promote early comprehension skills. Phonics bug is delivered through teacher-modelling and rehearsal with the whole class, there are also resources for guided independent work, tailored to meet the needs of the individual or groups.

Phonics Bug is supported by decodable readers (books) which match the order of phoneme introduction. After completion of the first two units children have acquired enough phoneme-grapheme correspondences to start reading their own books.

Children are exposed constantly to a rich and varied diet of book experiences to ensure their enthusiasm is nurtured, their comprehension skills are being developed and their speaking and listening skills are extended. Reception and KS 1 classrooms have a book corner and topic words displayed within the learning environment

Multisensory , continuous provision of activities linked to phonological awareness such as magnetic letters and whiteboards, writing letters in foam, dry sand, glitter, digging for letters in the sand etc.

Interactive whiteboard for teacher demonstration

Phoneme frames and sound buttons

Phonics apps on i-pads

Reading Recovery programme

Further links for Parents

phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm

A range of interactive phonics games, planning, assessments and printable resources available absolutely free

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics

A fun activity to help children at KS1 learn about phonics.

www.focusonphonics.co.uk

Focus on Phonics provides high quality resources for school and home to help give children the best possible start in learning to read with synthetic phonics.

www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html

Links to the best free online phonics games which can help your child to develop their phonics skills and knowledge of letter sounds.

www.mumsnet.com/learning/phonics/what-is-phonics

What phonics is and how it is used to help teach children to read in schools in England. Information, advice and free downloadable phonics worksheets.

www.letters-and-sounds.com

Free printable resources for the Letters and Sounds phonics programme. High quality, bright and colourful printable resources designed to appeal to children, plus ...

www.youtube.com/watch?v=saF3-f0XWAY

A phonics song to help children learn the letter sounds. Written and performed by A.J. Jenkins