

Homework

In Foundation Stage your child will receive a word wallet which must be kept in their reading folder at all times. The words in the wallet follow the 'Letters and Sounds' programme that we teach in school every day. Your child needs to learn these words by sight as oppose to sounding out. We will assess the child's recognition of these words half termly. Any comments regarding how your child is progressing with learning their words, please add to their reading record.

Reading regularly with your child at home is extremely beneficial. Please talk about the pictures, encourage them to recognise 'word wallet' words by sight as they are reading and sound out and bled for other unfamiliar words they come across. Discussing new words and retelling events or key information will also help develop your child's understanding of the texts they read.

What else can I do at home?

A great way to engage children at home with phonics is to play games. Practice oral blending, play matching pairs, snap, find hidden phonemes or words around the home or outside.

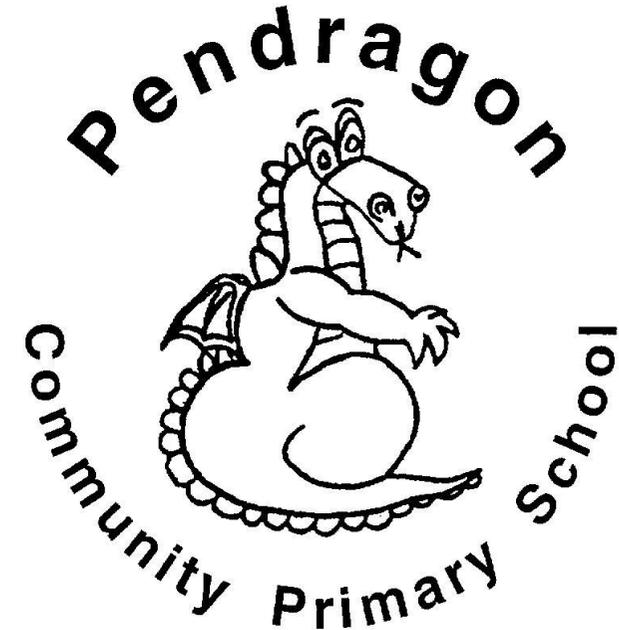
If you have a computer or tablet at home then below is a list of websites that have fun interactive games for children to play.

Useful website letters and sounds games:

-  www.letters-and-sounds.com
-  www.phonicsplay.co.uk/
-  www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/
-  www.ictgames.com/phonemeFlop_v4.html
-  www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome/home/reading-owl/fun-ideas
-  www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/popup.shtml

We hope you have found this leaflet useful. Please ask your child's class teacher if you have further questions.

PENDRAGON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Supporting Learning at Home

PHONICS

Phonics is:

- ☺ Identifying sounds (phonemes) in spoken words.
- ☺ Recognising the common spellings of each phoneme.
- ☺ Blending phonemes into words for reading.
- ☺ Segmenting words into phonemes for spelling.

Oral blending:

- ☺ Hearing a series of spoken sounds (phonemes) and merging them together to make a spoken word. No text is used.
 - e.g. When a teacher calls out 'b-u-s', the children say 'bus'.
 - This skill is usually taught before blending and reading printed words.

Blending:

- ☺ Recognising the letter-sounds in a written word, for example c-u-p, and merging them in the order in which they are written to say the word 'cup'.

Segmenting:

- ☺ Identifying the individual sounds in a spoken word (eg h-i-m) and writing down or letters for each sound (phoneme) to form the word 'him'.

Helpful Definitions:

- ☺ A **phoneme** is the smallest unit of sound in a word.
 - In the word sat there would be 3 phonemes s - a - t. Each letter makes a sound.
 - In shop there are also 3 phonemes sh - o - p, as the 'sh' phoneme is made by 2 letters.
 - Sometimes people think stop is 3 phonemes, but it is in fact 4, s - t - o - p, as 's' and 't' make distinct sounds of their own.

- ☺ A **Grapheme** - Letter(s) representing a phoneme.

t ai igh

Phonemes and graphemes:

- ☺ Phonemes are represented by graphemes;
- ☺ A grapheme may consist of one (*t*), two (*kn*) or more letters (*igh*);
- ☺ A phoneme can be represented/spelled in more than one way *paw*, *door*, *ought*;
- ☺ The same grapheme may represent more than one phoneme *deaf*, *meat*.

Digraph:

- ☺ Two letters which make one phoneme.
- ☺ A **consonant digraph** contains two consonants:

sh ck th ll

- ☺ A **vowel digraph** contains at least one vowel:

ai ee ar oy

Trigraph:

- ☺ Three letters, which make one phoneme.

igh dge

Split digraph:

- ☺ A digraph in which the two letters (which make one phoneme) are not next to each other.

make, cake ae dome oe

Why use all of the technical words?

- ☺ It is not important to know all of the technical jargon by itself, but it is important to be using the same words as your child, so you can better support their learning at home – and they like all of new words!