

# Learning to Read at Cherry Orchard

## PHONICS

At Cherry Orchard, children learn to read by learning letter sounds (**phonemes**) and recognising the letter or letters that make each sound (**graphemes**).

Although there are only 26 letters in the English language, there are 44 sounds. Below is a chart of the graphemes that make those sounds.

<b>44 Sounds</b> (in the order in which they are taught in Reception)	<b>Other graphemes that make the same sound</b>	<b>Sample words</b>
m	mm, mb	map, hammer, lamb
a		ant
s	ss, se, c, ce	sun, miss, horse, circle, force
d	dd	dog, muddy
t	tt	tap, butter
i		tin
n	nn, kn	net, funny, knock
p	pp	pen, happy
g	gg	go, bigger
o		on
c, k	ck, ch	cat, kit, duck, character
u	oo	up, look
b	bb	big, rabbit
f	ff, ph	fan, puff, photograph
e	ea	egg, head
l	ll, le	leg, bell, bubble
h		hen
sh	ti, ci	shop, mention, musician
r	rr, wr	rat, carrot, write
j	g, dge	jet, giant, badge
v	ve	van, have
y		yes
w	wh	wig, when
th		thin
z	zz, s	zip, buzz, is
ch	tch	chip, catch

qu		queen
x		box
ng, nk		ring, think
ay	a-e, ai	day, make, rain
ee	y, ea, e	feet, funny, eat, he
igh	i-e, ie, i	night, like, find
ow	o-e, oa, o	grow, hope, boat, go
oo	u-e, ue, ew	food, rule, blue, grew
oo	u	book, put
ar		farm
or	oor, ore, aw	for, more, saw
air	are, ear	fair, care, bear
ir	ur, er	girl, hurt, her
ou	ow	cloud, cow
oy	oi	boy, coin
ire		fire
ear		fear
ure		sure

**To read:** children are taught to **blend** sounds together. For example, c-l-ou-d becomes 'cloud'. They are encouraged to think about the sounds in the word, rather than each individual letter.

**To spell:** children are taught to **segment** the word and write each sound they can hear.

The children practise **blending** and **segmenting** every day, using 'Fred Talk'.

**'Fred Talk':** Fred is a puppet who says, reads and spells words in pure sounds; he never says the whole word so the children do this for him.

**'High-Frequency Words':** these are words that occur most frequently in children's literature. We have put 2 tables of the high-frequency words on the website: the first 100 high-frequency words for Reception and Year 1, and the next 200 high frequency words for Year 1 and Year 2.

**'Tricky words':** these are words that cannot be 'sounded out' because the letters do not conform to the 44 common sounds in the English language, for example, 'said'. Children need to learn to read and spell these words 'off by heart' rather than by sounding them out. The best way to do this is by putting the words on flash cards for reading, and by using the 'look, say, cover, write, check' method for spelling. The children have to keep practising these words until they read them fluently and spell them consistently in their writing.