**Useful phonics, reading & writing websites for parents**

**Links for parents**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVyry9jpVjI> - this clip features a lady correctly saying all 26 letter sounds **as well as performing the simple actions we teach the children**. She also explains why some pronunciations are incorrect.*(She starts saying the sounds after approx. two minutes)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfWCcIz2Qjk> - a similar clip to above, where the lady does the same thing, but for digraphs (i.e. two letters together that make one sound, such as “sh” & “ch”)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ksblMiliA8> – this clip features a close up view of a lady as she says each sound, so children / parents can see how to use their mouth to correctly pronounce each sound.

In all of the above video clips, the order that the sounds are spoken is not the same order that we teach them. The first six letters we teach are s,a,t,p,i,n.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letters-and-sounds> - link to download the “Letters and Sounds” government publication that we use to teach phonics at Portfields. It is a comprehensive guide with tips and activities to help teach children phonics.

**Online activities and games for children**

*NB Many of these websites use Flash, so you might need to check your web browser.*

<http://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/literacy/> - there a few different activities available:

1) Letter (& Number) Formation: An interactive letter formation activity that shows how to form all letters correctly. Children can copy & follow with their finger, or by using a pen etc.

2) First Sounds: Pick which words you want to use, then each word is said and children have to listen to the initial sound & choose the correct letter which represents that sound.

3) First Words: Pick which words you want to use, then each word is said and children have to create the word by listening to all sounds and choosing the correct letters in order.

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html> - lots of literacy, phonics (& maths) games:

1) Phoneme Pop (Letters & Sounds): Select the letters that your child wants to practise and a voice says the sound to look for. Click on the correct letters that make that sound.

2) The Dinosaur’s Eggs: High frequency words version – select a range of common words to read, a voice will read the word, click on the egg that shows that word. (The Synthetic Phonics version can be used once we start to learn digraphs after Christmas)

3) Poop Deck Pirates: Choose the “CVC” option and read the words that appear on the coins. If the word is real, click on the tick and if the word is made up, click on the cross.

4) Tell A T-Rex: Read the silly question and answer with either yes or no.

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/> - click on “phonics games” then “Phase 2”:

1) Flash Cards: Choose sets 1,2,3 & then play. See the letter and if your child can say the sound correctly, then click the tick button and move onto the next letter.

2) Match Cards: Sound out the letters and blend them together to read the word, then drag the correct picture on top of the word.

3) Odd Sound Out: Look at & say the four different pictures. Three have the same initial sound and one has a different sound. Drag the odd sound out into the middle.

Youtube (search “Mr Thorne Does Phonics”) – a series of short phonic videos that introduce the lower case & capital letter shapes for each letter, the letter name, the sound it makes as well as showing that letter in some words to practise blending the sounds together to try and read the word. The children also enjoy watching Geraldine the Giraffe as the cheeky giraffe gets up to mischief in each one!

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/PictureMatch.html> - “Pick a Picture” is an activity where children read CVC words and click on the matching picture. This game is freely available, but most of the website (which we use a lot at school) is subscription based.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/get-squiggling> - videos, songs and interactive activities related to early writing skills, such as drawing different types of lines and forming letters correctly. We have watched these videos at school and copying the drawings of animals is a good way for children to develop pencil control which helps them to form letters more carefully. All videos are also available on Youtube.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks> - fun videos and games with each alphabet letter being an animated character. Each character says its sound and letters join together to make digraphs. Good for helping children blend letters together to make words. The Alphablocks Guide to Phonics is also very useful for parents who are new to phonics.

**Printable phonics & literacy resources for children (EG letter flashcards etc)**

[www.sparklebox.co.uk](http://www.sparklebox.co.uk) – has many different resources suitable for all abilities

[www.earlylearninghq.org.uk](http://www.earlylearninghq.org.uk) & [www.classroompixie.com](http://www.classroompixie.com) - general printable resources

**Glossary of terms:**

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| Phoneme | A single unit of sound that you can hear. EG The sssss sound you hear when you say the word “snake”. This word has 5 phonemes you can hear: s/n/ai/k |
| Grapheme | The written representation of a phoneme. The word cat is made up of 3 phonemes: c/a/t. These are represented by the letters c-a-t |
| Digraph & Trigraph | A digraph is where 2 letters join together to make one sound EG “ch” & “sh”.  A trigraph is where 3 letters join together to make one sound EG “igh” |
| Pure Sound | Please try and ensure each sound you say is pronounced clearly and distinctly without adding additional sounds on the end EG fffff and **not fuh** |
| CVC Words | A word made up of consonant sound - vowel sound - consonant sound. The word c-a-t is a CVC word. The word l-igh-t is also a CVC word, even though it has 5 letters, it still only has 3 sounds: l/igh/t |
| Blending | The process children go through to read a word. To read the word c-a-t, children would say each sound individually and then merge / blend them together to say and read the word cat. |
| Segmenting | The process children go through to spell a word. To spell the word dog, children would spilt it up into its separate phonemes and write the correct grapheme for each EG d-o-g |
| Phoneme Frame | This is a simple grid the children use to help them segment words when writing. EG The word “mat” has 3 phonemes, so the phoneme frame looks like this: m a t For the word chips, it looks like this: ch i p s |
| Decodable word | A word that can be read by saying the sounds separately and then blending them together. EG c-a-t or d-o-g |
| Tricky word | A word that cannot be read in the above way because letters do not make the sounds they should! EG The words “was” and “the” are tricky words.  Children should be encouraged to recognise these words by sight. |