

Letters and Sounds

At Merrylands we follow a systematic phonics programme called **Letters and Sounds**. All children take part in a fun, fast-paced, differentiated phonics session daily. In Reception and Year 2, children attend a 15-20 minute session every day. In Year 1, these sessions are taught twice a day to ensure they are prepared and ready for their phonics screening in June. The teaching of phonics has been shown to provide a quick and efficient way for most young children to learn to read words on the page, fluently and accurately. It is also a great help for their spelling. The Letters and Sounds program is divided into 6 phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. It is expected that phase 1 begins before the children start school as the children learn to listen attentively and play with spoken words and sounds. As the children progress through phases 2 to 5 they will learn how the sounds which make up words are represented and learn to use these to read and spell. Once the children reach the final phase within Year 2, the focus is on developing the children's spelling strategies. As the children progress through the school, we use ongoing assessments to enable us to ensure that children are grouped and taught at the level that is most appropriate for them. If necessary, focus children will continue these daily sessions for the first term of Year 3 before accessing the spelling scheme.

How to help at home

- read every day with your child
- let your child see you enjoying reading
- talk to your child about print in the environment
- take care when pronouncing the sounds at home (there is a link below to a video which demonstrates how we say the sounds in school)
- play games to reinforce your child's learning in school (there are links below to online games as well as a list of games you can play)
- always praise their efforts and make reading an enjoyable experience!

Useful links:

Please click [here](#) - this link takes you to a video to show you how we teach the children to pronounce each sound. (Sounds of the English Phonic Code - Synthetic Phonics.wmv)

Phonics games:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/>

www.ictgames.com/literacy.html

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>