

## **Phonics at Crowcroft Park**

We follow the 'Letters and Sounds' programme which focuses on high quality phonics work. The purpose of the programme is to enable children to have the phonic knowledge and skills they need to become fluent readers by the age of 7.

The children in the EYFS and Key Stage 1 take part in a fun and engaging phonics lesson daily where they learn the sounds the letters make and how to segment and blend to read and write words. In Key Stage 1 the children are grouped according to the phonics phase they are working on and their phonic phase is tracked closely.

## **What is the Year 1 Phonics Screening Test?**

The Phonics Screening Check is meant to show how well your child can use the phonics skills they've learned up to the end of Year 1, and to identify pupils who need extra phonics help. The check takes about 9 minutes to complete and takes place in June each year

More information for parents can be found at: <http://www.theschoolrun.com/year-1-phonics-screening-check>

## **How can I help my child at home?**

Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents play a very important part in helping with this.

- Ask your child's class teacher about the phonics phase your child is working on and which letters they are focusing on each week
- You can then highlight these sounds when you read with your child. Teaching how sounds match with letters is likely to start with individual letters such as 's', 'a' and 't' and then will move on to two-letter sounds such as 'ee', 'ch' and 'ck'.
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help him or her to follow the story.
- Try to make time to read with your child every day. Grandparents and older brothers or sisters can help, too. Encourage your child to blend the sounds all the way through a word.
- Word games like 'I-spy' can also be an enjoyable way of teaching children about sounds and letters. You can also encourage your child to read words from your shopping list or road signs to practise phonics.

## **Have a look at the following websites**

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk/](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/sandcastle/index.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/sandcastle/index.shtml)

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/)