



## Phonics

Phonics is an integral part of the curriculum and at Monkwick Infant School we follow the 'Letters and Sounds' phonics programme. Phonics teaching begins in Reception and develops as the children progress into Year 1.

Children are taught the 44 phonemes or units of sound that make up words. This begins with single letters – s, t, a, n and progresses onto digraphs and trigraphs where two or three letters make one phoneme (for example - sh, th, ee, igh). Consonant clusters are also taught (For example - st, cl, br). As the children grow in confidence and knowledge they are taught the alternative spellings (for example - ee/ea, ow/ou) and pronunciations of sounds. The skills of blending (sounding out words by saying the phonemes within a word) and segmenting (hearing a word and saying the phonemes within the word) support reading and writing. These important skills are taught, revised and applied in every phonics session and during any reading and writing activities.

The teaching of phonics is rigorous, fun and structured. Each session is planned so that children have the opportunity to revise and practise previous learning, learn new phonemes and apply their learning in lots of different activities. Children are then encouraged to use their knowledge of phonics in reading and writing activities across the curriculum.