



# Warren Wood Primary Academy And The Evergreen Centre (an Inclusive Provision for Language Needs)



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Dear Parents and Carers

## Phonics

As we already know, it is so important for parents, carers and teachers to work together to give your child the best start. Reading together at home is one of the most effective and important ways in which you can help your child. Children should be encouraged to enjoy sharing books and reading independently, as well as reading with an adult. This not only supports children's progression in reading but leads to them seeing reading as a source of pleasure and interest.

Starting from the Early Years, children will be taught phonics, which are vital skills taught to support each child on their individual journey of learning how to read and spell. To support your child in becoming an effective and confident reader we hope to work with you to develop their knowledge of phonics (letter sounds) to enable them to decode different words they may come across.

## What is Phonics?

The alphabet contains only 26 letters. Spoken English uses about 44 sounds (phonemes). These phonemes are represented by letters (graphemes). In other words, a sound can be represented by a letter (e.g. 'e' or 'p') or a group of letters (e.g. 'sh' or 'air').

A letter consists of a sound and a shape and it has a capital form and a lower-case form. The letter sound is the first thing that children need to recognise. An important factor to remember is - to only use capital names when the children know the letter sounds.

At Warren Wood Primary Academy, we follow the Twinkl Phonics Programme. The six-level teaching programme focuses on high-quality phonics work. The intention is to equip children with the phonic knowledge and skills they need to become fluent readers. In Year 1 the children sit a phonics screening which consists of 40 decodable words.



Follow the link to see how to pronounce the sounds and do the actions in Levels 2 and 3.

- Level 2 – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SzkjubQ-Ok>
- Level 3 – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZGwM48Wy5E>

More information can be found on our website: <https://sflt.org.uk/warrenwood/english/>

### **Games to play at home**

**Hoop game** - get 2 hoops, trays or plates and place a letter card on each of them e.g. s and a. Have a variety of objects beginning with these 2 sounds. Ask your child to select an object and say the name of it. Repeat it several times and then ask your child to place it on the correct tray.

**Sound hunt** - encourage children to hunt around the house or garden for objects beginning with a certain sound. This can also be done with words hidden around the house.

**Rogue sound game** - show a variety of objects to your child. All of the objects have the same initial sound except one. Ask them to identify the rogue item.

**Bingo** - bingo boards can be easily made and differentiated. Put letters, digraphs, words etc. in 6 spaces and make 6 cards that match. Can your child match them? Can they be the 'bingo caller' and say what is on the card first?

**Letters/graphemes in the mud** - encourage children to write letters/graphemes in different ways. Write them with a stick in the mud, with their finger in sand, a straw in paint. This is not only great for their sound/ letter correspondence but also for handwriting.

**Treasure/trash** - make some word cards with real and non-sense words using a variety of graphemes. Decode the word together, blend and decide if it is a real 'treasure' word or a 'trash' non-sense word (which can go in the bin).

**Splat the sound** – lay all the sounds out on the floor, say a sound to your child, your child then must locate the sound and splat it with their hand.

**Speed read** – set a 2-minute timer, how many words can your child read correctly in that time. Add the challenge of giving them 1 minute if it becomes easy.

**Sort the words** – use the sound cards to make headings, child then has the words to read and put under the correct sound heading.

If you require any resources or guidance to support your child at home with phonics and early reading, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teachers via the class email address:

- Daffodil Class: [wvdaffodil@warrenwood.medway.sch.uk](mailto:wvdaffodil@warrenwood.medway.sch.uk)



- Tulip Class: [wwtulip@warrenwood.medway.sch.uk](mailto:wwtulip@warrenwood.medway.sch.uk)
- Holly Class: [wwholly@warrenwood.medway.sch.uk](mailto:wwholly@warrenwood.medway.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely



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