

## Homework

Phonics homework in Year 1 and at the beginning of Year 2 is very similar. Pupils are given a sheet containing a list of words (the focus is indicated at the top). Pupils need to copy the words, add sound buttons and then segment the words in a phoneme frame. There is space for several days practice on the back.

Later in Year 2 pupils are asked to use each word in a sentence to show that they understand the meaning of words. Developing vocabulary is just as important as spelling correctly. If children do not understand a word they will not use it in their writing, whether they can spell it correctly or not.

## What else can I do at home?

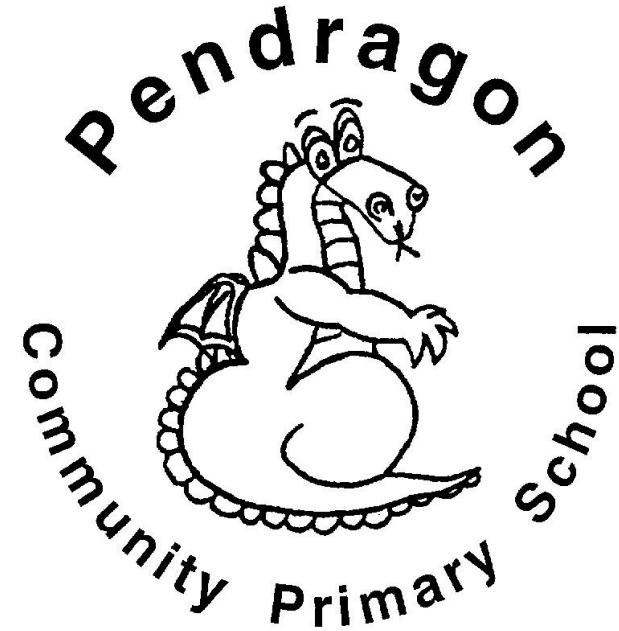
A great way to engage children at home with phonics is to play games. Matching pairs, snap, sorting words or letters can all be ways to help teach your children. If you have a computer at home then below is a list of websites that have fun interactive games for children to play.

## Useful website letters and sounds games:

- [www.letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com)
- [www.phonicsplay.co.uk/](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/)
- [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/)
- [www.ictgames.com/phonemeFlop\\_v4.html](http://www.ictgames.com/phonemeFlop_v4.html)
- [www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome/home/reading-owl/fun-ideas](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome/home/reading-owl/fun-ideas)
- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/popup.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/popup.shtml)

We hope you have found this leaflet useful. Please ask your child's class teacher if you have further questions.

# PENDRAGON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Supporting Learning at Home

# PHONICS

## Phonics is:

- ☺ Identifying sounds (phonemes) in spoken words.
- ☺ Recognising the common spellings of each phoneme.
- ☺ Blending phonemes into words for reading.
- ☺ Segmenting words into phonemes for spelling.

## Oral blending:

- ☺ Hearing a series of spoken sounds (phonemes) and merging them together to make a spoken word. No text is used.
  - e.g. When a teacher calls out 'b-u-s', the children say 'bus'.
  - This skill is usually taught before blending and reading printed words.

## Blending:

- ☺ Recognising the letter-sounds in a written word, for example c-u-p, and merging them in the order in which they are written to say the word 'cup'.

## Segmenting:

- ☺ Identifying the individual sounds in a spoken word (eg h-i-m) and writing down or letters for each sound (phoneme) to form the word 'him'.

## Helpful Definitions:

- ☺ A **phoneme** is the smallest unit of sound in a word.
  - In the word sat there would be 3 phonemes s - a - t. Each letter makes a sound.
  - In shop there are also 3 phonemes sh - o - p, as the 'sh' phoneme is made by 2 letters.
  - Sometimes people think stop is 3 phonemes, but it is in fact 4, s - t - o - p, as 's' and 't' make distinct sounds of their own.

- ☺ A **Grapheme** - Letter(s) representing a phoneme.

t                      ai                      igh

## Phonemes and graphemes:

- ☺ Phonemes are represented by graphemes;
- ☺ A grapheme may consist of one (t), two (kn) or more letters (igh);
- ☺ A phoneme can be represented/spelled in more than one way p**aw**, **door**, **ough**;
- ☺ The same grapheme may represent more than one phoneme **deaf**, **meat**.

## Digraph:

- ☺ Two letters which make one phoneme.
- ☺ A **consonant digraph** contains two consonants:

sh      ck      th      ll

- ☺ A **vowel digraph** contains at least one vowel:

ai      ee      ar      oy

## Trigraph:

- ☺ Three letters, which make one phoneme.

igh      dge

## Split digraph:

- ☺ A digraph in which the two letters (which make one phoneme) are not next to each other.

ma**ke**, ca**ke**                      a\_**e**                      do**me**                      o\_**e**

## Why use all of the technical words?

- ☺ It is not important to know all of the technical jargon by itself, but it is important to be using the same words as your child, so you can better support their learning at home – and they like all of new words!