

At Gunthorpe
Primary School we
follow the Jolly
Phonics scheme.



Whilst there is no expectation
in the children knowing their
letters and sounds before
starting school, you could
play them the Jolly Phonic
songs as an introduction.

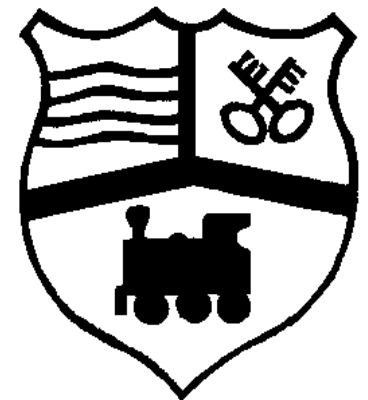
Therefore, at Gunthorpe we
would like you to focus on the
following areas before they
join us in September:

- Name recognition
- Nursery Rhymes
- Oral Segmenting and
Blending
- Sharing stories
- Fine Motor Skills

If you have any further
questions or would like further
support, please contact us:

eyfs@gunthorpe.peterborough.sch.uk

Early Reading and Phonics at Gunthorpe Primary School



This leaflet will provide you
with information on what we
would like the children to
know before starting school.



Name Recognition

Give the children as much exposure to their name as possible so that they begin to recognise it. This will help them recognise their name, amongst the others, on their pegs, drawers and clothes. They will then be able to independently look after and put away their belongings.

Being able to spell and write their name when they start is not an expectation but if they are able to practice this it is useful for them to begin to label their own work.

Sharing books together

"Children are made readers in the laps of their parents" – Emilie Buchwald

Share books at every opportunity. Reading books together not only means that you model how to hold and take care of them, turn the pages and read from left to right but you also prompt speaking and listening skills, concentration and develop vocabulary,

You could also practice oral segmenting and blending of some words within the book.

There is no expectation that children should know any of the letters and their sounds when they start school. Children will be introduced to these within the Reception year.

Nursery Rhymes

Sing as many nursery rhymes as you can together. The more the merrier!

Studies have shown that if a child can recall eight nursery rhymes by the time they start school they are more likely to be better readers and spellers by the time they are 8 years old.

Nursery rhymes not only form part of Phase 1 phonics but develop lots of other areas of the curriculum:

- Vocabulary
- Story sequencing
- Numeracy skills
- Listening skills
- Physical development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World.

Oral Segmenting and Blending

A vital skill in early Phonics and will give the children a solid foundation for future learning. Encourage the children to break up and merge the sounds they hear in words.

Segmenting – You say a word and then they tell you the sounds they hear.

"cat" – "c-a-t"

Blending – You say the sounds within a word and they merge those sounds to form the whole word.

"d-o-g" – "dog"

Model this as much as possible and play games like 'I spy' or 'Simon Says' where you say the sounds and they blend them to make the word.

Fine Motor Skills

Provide opportunities for the children to develop the muscles in their fingers, hands and wrists and practice making marks. By taking part in pre-writing activities, that support fine motor skills, means they are developing their finger and hand muscles to eventually hold a pencil and form letters.