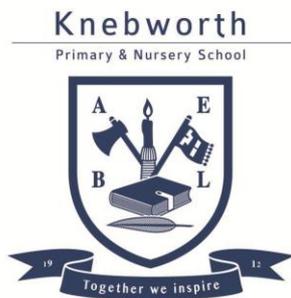


LEARNING TOOLKIT - < Phonics >

Phonemes and graphemes



Phonemes

Phonemes are the sounds that letters make. When we teach phonics in the EYFS and KS1, we always teach children the correct pronunciation of the letter sounds. To do this, we model the position of the mouth and tongue when saying each phoneme. **Below is a link to a video that clearly shows you how to say each letter and how to move your mouth and tongue.** If a child is struggling with a sound, then it may be a good idea to use a mirror so that the child can actually see the position of their mouth and tongue.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s

Graphemes

Graphemes are how the letter appears when written. In the EYFS we teach children how to form letters correctly using the precursive style of handwriting as seen below. We have also found that the read, write, inc mat has also really supported the formation of letters in our school. Just please note that we form the 'K' and 'f' as seen below in blue. Thus, this is not correct on the sound mat, so we have changed the rhymes to: 'Down the kangaroo's body, **curl around the tail** and draw the leg.' 'Around the flower, down the stem, to the roots, across the leaf.'



EYFS precursive writing

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

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As a school we move onto teaching the precursive joined style of handwriting when the children are ready.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

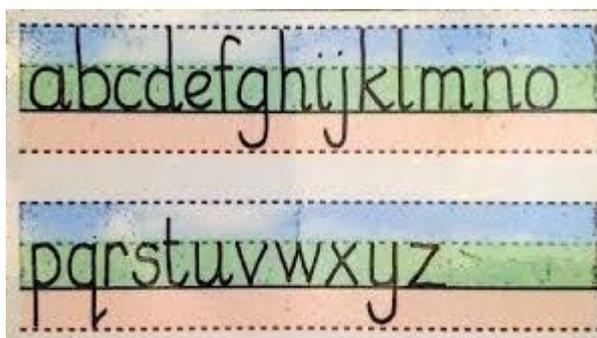


Anti-clockwise letters

Some of the letters are formed using an anti-clockwise pencil motion. These are: a, c, d, f, g, o, q and s. In reception we tell the children that we will need to draw a “backwards rainbow” as this seems to help them remember that the letter needs to be formed making an anti-clockwise movement.

Ascenders and Descenders

Some letters sit on the line while others are ascenders (go above the line) or descenders (go below the line). See example below. We teach the children the language of grass letters (on the line), ground letters (below the line) and sky letters (above the line) to make it more enjoyable and easy to learn as it is more visual. See the example below.



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