



'Within a caring Christian community we enable every child to flourish and inspire a love of learning in all members of our community'

Phonics at Coombe Bissett CEVA Primary School

Words are made up from small units of sound called phonemes. Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word. This helps children to learn to read words and to spell words

Modelling the correct phonemes is important for supporting your child in learning to read. [Use this link to check each of the different phonemes.](#)

Term	Meaning
CVC	A C onsonant- v owel- C onsonant word, such as cat , pin or top . You may also come across the abbreviation CCVC for consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant words such as clap and from . Also CVCC for words such as mask and belt .
<i>Phoneme</i>	Phonemes are the smallest unit of speech-sounds which make up a word. If you change a phoneme in a word, you would change its meaning. For example, there are three phonemes in the word sit /s/-/i/-/t/. If you change the phoneme /s/ for /f/, you have a new word, fit . If you change the phoneme /t/ in fit for a /sh/, you have a new word, fish - /f/-/i/-/sh/.
<i>Grapheme</i>	Graphemes are the written representation of sounds; the letters we use to represent the sounds.

In phonics lessons children are taught three main things:

Grapheme Phoneme Correspondences (GPCs)

They are taught GPCs. This simply means that they are taught all the phonemes in the English language and ways of writing them down. These sounds are taught in a particular order. The first sounds to be taught are **s, a, t, p**.

Blending

Children are taught to be able to blend. This is when children say the sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sounds together until they can hear what the word is. This skill is vital in learning to read.

Segmenting

Children are also taught to segment. This is the opposite of blending. Children are able to say a word and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up. This skill is vital in being able to spell words.

At Coombe Bissett CEVA Primary School we have highly skilled teachers and support staff who use a range of teaching methods to enable children to secure a solid foundation of phonic knowledge that they can use throughout their learning. To support our teaching we use the following resources: [Letters and Sounds](#) (a government publication); [Jolly Phonics](#) (a kinaesthetic approach); [Phonics Play](#) (a multi-media resource).

We recognise the important part parents play in their children's learning and development. As part of our induction process for new families, an introduction to phonics is included in our parents' information evening. Mrs Macaulay is our Foundation Stage and Key Stage One leader and is always happy to answer any questions parents have on this important subject.

We are very proud of the quality of our phonics teaching and the high standards our children reach. We have consistently achieved above national and county in the government's Phonics Screening Check.