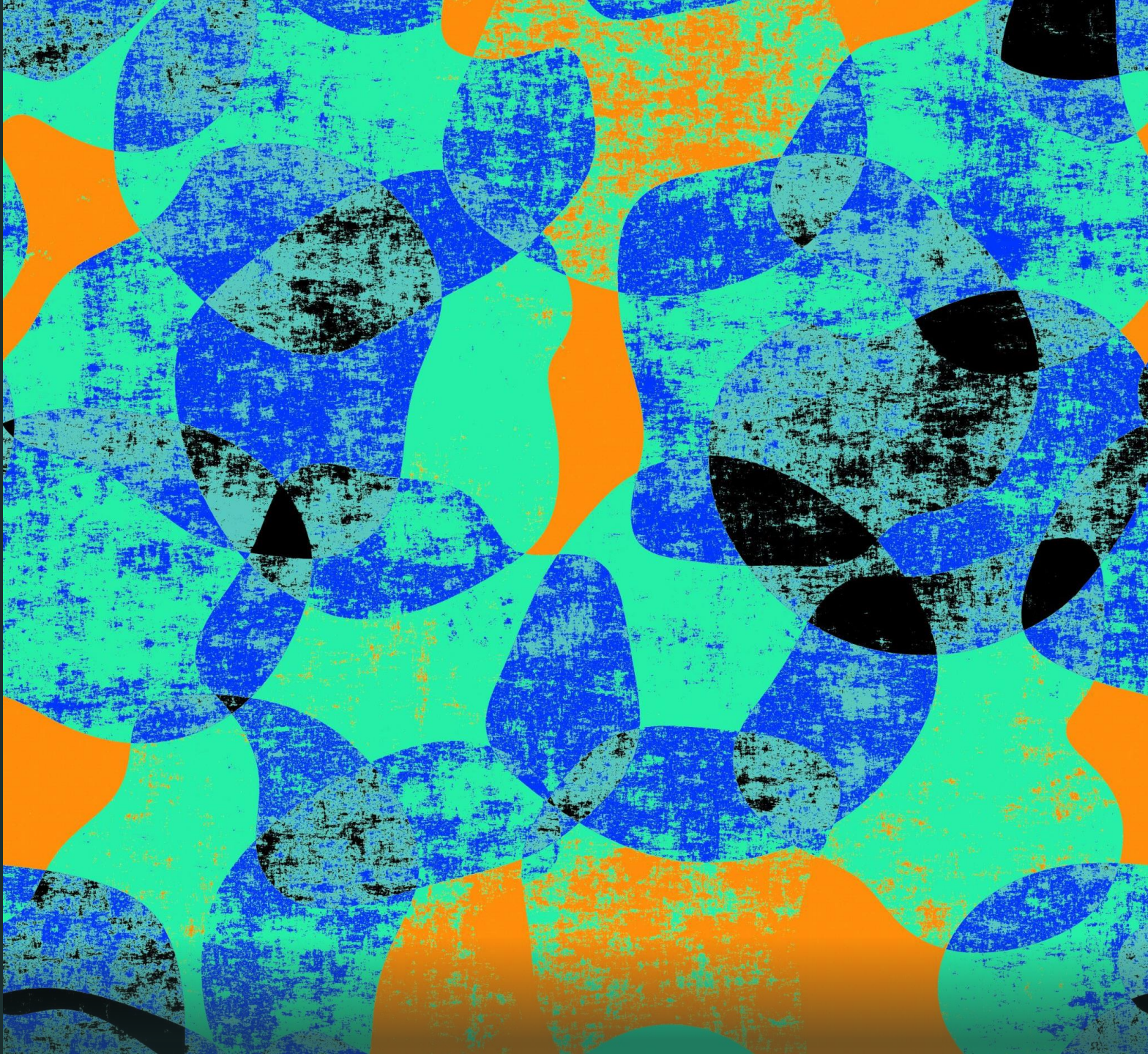


Teaching Phonics at Dean Bank Primary

A guide for Reception and Year
1 parents and carers to help
you support your child learning
to reading at home.



- From making friends to confidence with letters and numbers, there's a lot to learn when starting school. Children learn a lot through play – but these days, reading skills are also taught from the earliest days in nursery or reception class right through their first years in primary school.
- It can be a bit of a puzzle to work out how best to support your child through the early stages of reading, especially since teaching methods may have changed quite a bit since you were at school! Read on if you'd like to find out what to expect as your child builds their reading skills, how to help them – and how you can both have fun while you do so!



So, what is phonics, and why is it so important?

- Phonics means using letter sounds to help you read words.
- Most schools in the UK now teach reading through phonics. The reason phonics is so widely used is that research shows it works!
- There are lots of different phonics schemes out there. At Dean Bank, we use 'Sounds~write'.



The Initial Code

- At Dean Bank, we teach what we call the Initial Code and the Extended Code. The one we are focusing on is the Initial Code. The initial code has 11 units.
- Every week or so, we will begin a new unit and build the new sounds into what we have already introduced. Units 1-7 introduce new sounds as follows;

Unit 1: a, i, m, s, t

Unit 2: n, o, p

Unit 3: b, c, g, h

Unit 4: d, f, v, e

Unit 5: k, l, r, u

Unit 6: j, w, z

Unit 7: x, y, ff, ll, ss

Units 8-10 use these sounds to work with bigger and more complicated words (see word list in your resource pack for words to use).

Unit 11 introduces one sound made with two different letters: sh, ch, th, ck, wh, ng and qu.

Check which unit your child is working on in school with your child's class teacher.

What you will need:

- A whiteboard and whiteboard pen.
- A list of words you are going to work with. See the word list provided in your home pack. (No more than five words in one session)
- Some post it notes with each sound written on for each word e.g.

m

a

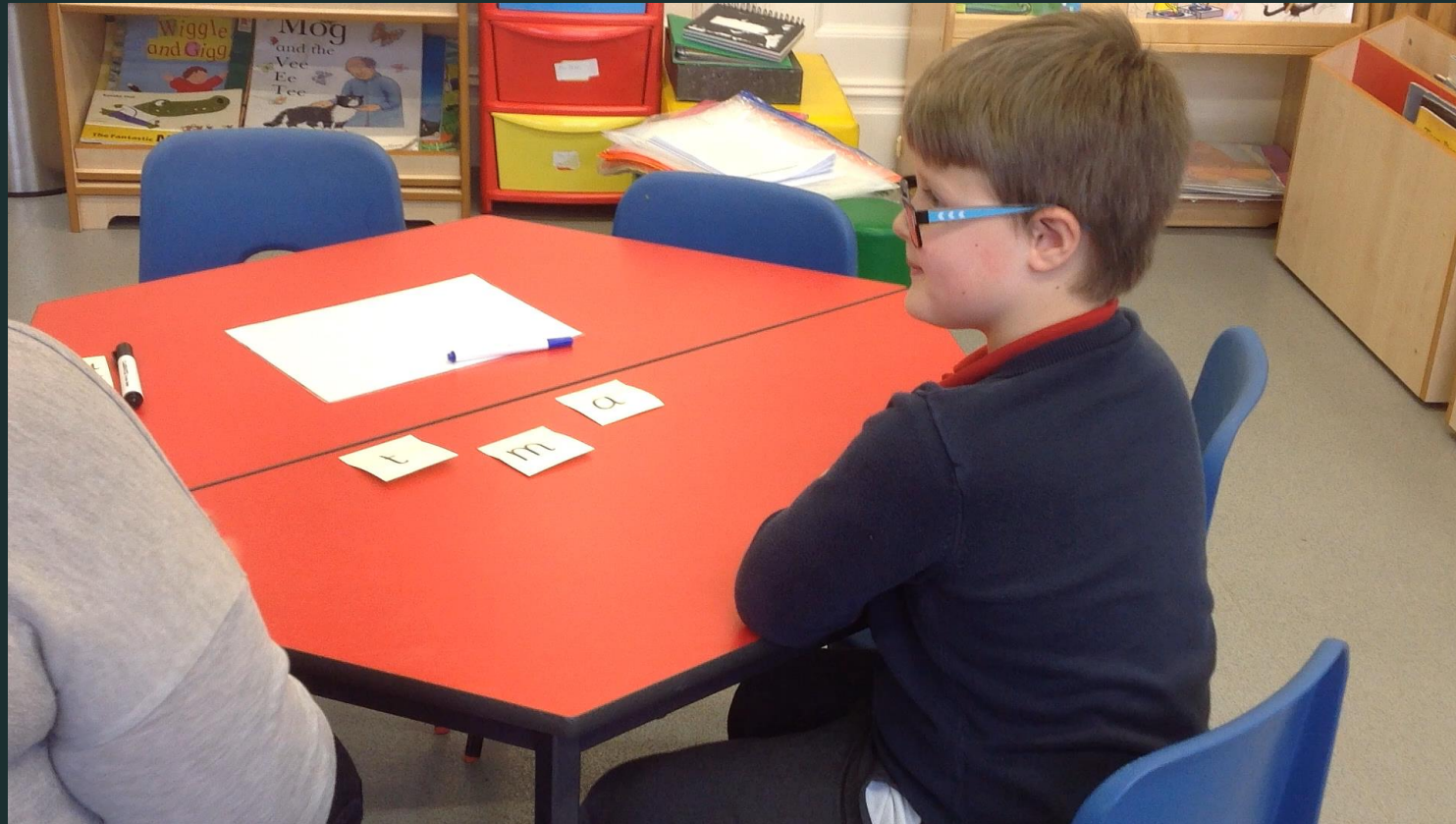
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- Everything you need is included in the resource pack we provided!



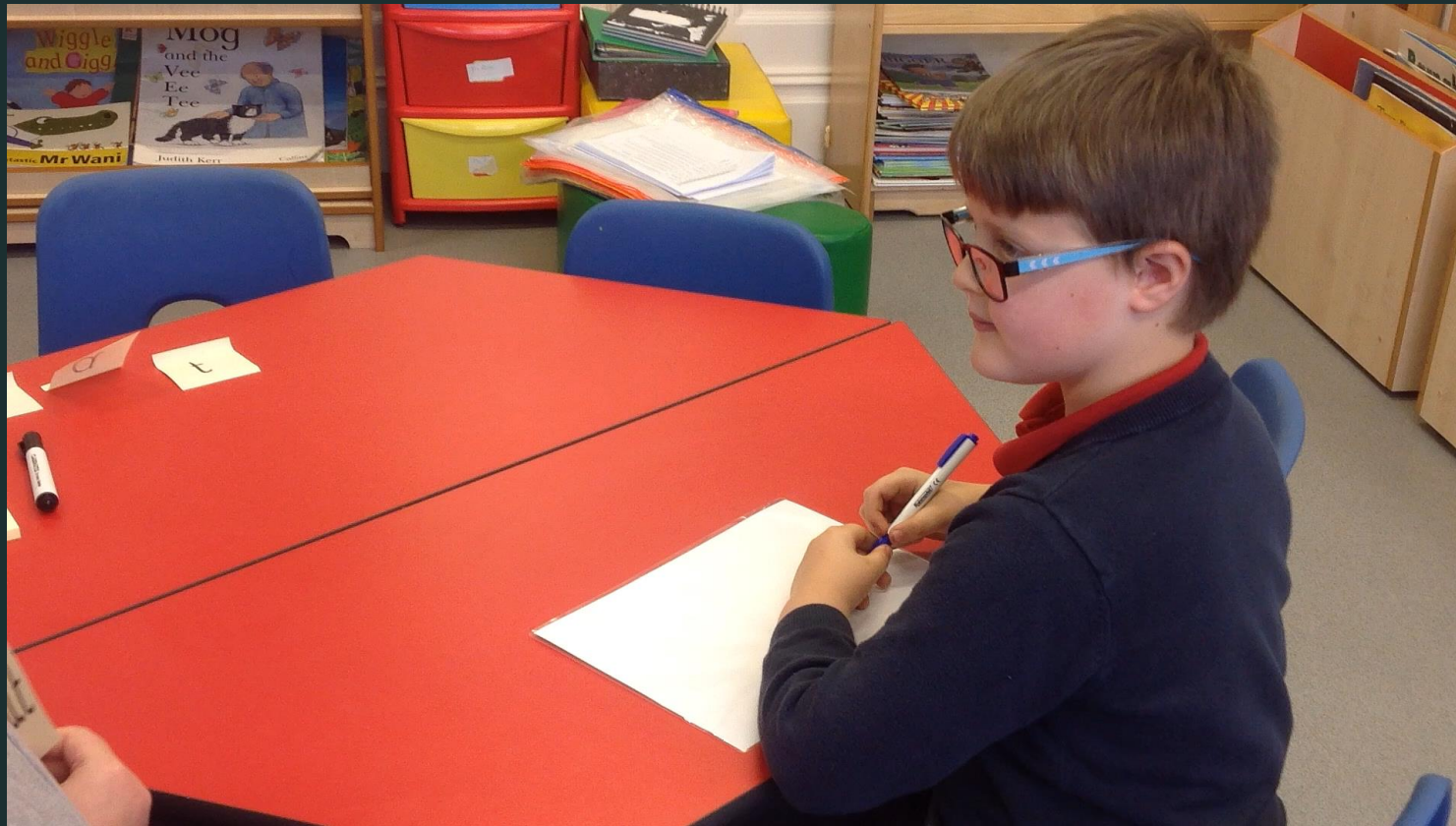
Activity 1 – Word building

Watch this short video to see the activities we do at school and what you can do at home!



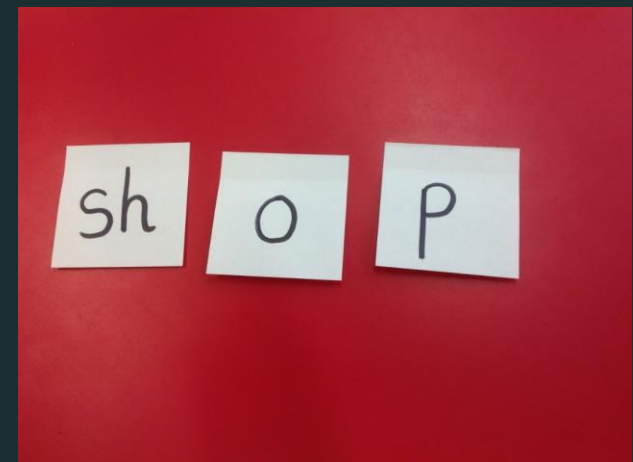
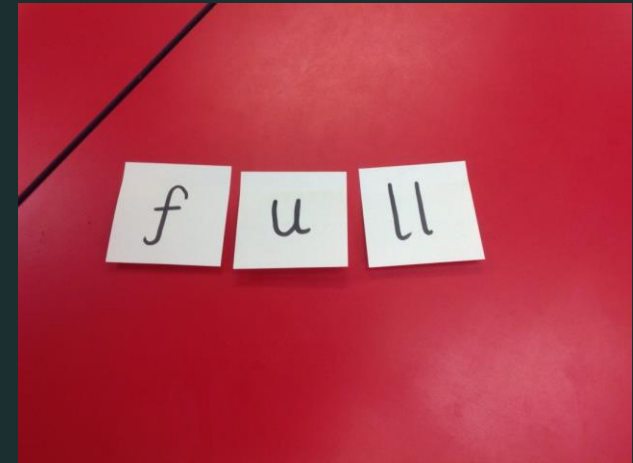
Activity 2 – Reading and Spelling words

These activities can also be used when reading your child's reading book.

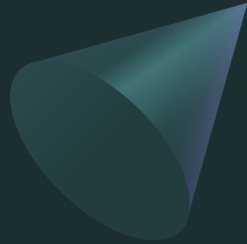


Working with two letters but one sound.

From unit 7, we start to introduce sounds that are represented by two letters. These letters are shown on one post it note and are used in exactly the same way as other sounds in the activities.



Keep it easy and fun!



- Remember the aim of phonics is to get your child reading as quickly and easily as possible so that they are free to read whatever they like! It's meant to be fun – and no one wants reading to turn into a chore. So, whatever stage of their school life your child is at, don't forget:
- Keep phonics sessions short and focused. Aim to stop before your child gets bored! Ten minutes is often long enough.
- Pick a time when your child's not too tired, and find a quiet place where they won't be distracted by screens (or by noisy brothers or sisters!).
- Even when your child is becoming a good independent reader, keep on reading to them!
- If you're ever concerned about your child's reading, talk to their teacher. Tell the teacher what you've noticed and ask for their advice.