Welcome to Meanwood CE Primary School

Parent Phonics Meeting

7th October 2026

Open Hearts

Open Minds

Open Arms

We want to share with you…

- The importance of oracy and reading!
- An overview of Success for All Phonics and what's included
- The background of the programme
- Ways to help your child at home and in school

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The importance of reading and talking with your child

Meet Sophie

Sophie's parents talk a lot with her as they go about their everyday lives. They talk about things they see and do, and about every story they read to her. They listen and respond to Sophie's many comments, observations and questions, helping her to understand new vocabulary, concepts and ideas.

By three, Sophie's heard over 33 million words, including synonyms and a range of syntax; she's had 1700 hours of storytimes, knows many nursery rhymes and fairy tales and, in particular, has favourite stories she asks for again and again.

The importance of reading and talking with your child

Meet Harvey

Harvey's parents don't talk much with him (nor did their parents talk much with them).

The nine million words he's heard by the age of three are of a more limited range and mostly instructional. He's had 25 hours of storytimes.

The word gap:

- At three, Sophie is 24 million words, 1675 story hours ahead of Harvey.
- Even more sadly, the gap between them grows exponentially wider each year, making it harder for Harvey to understand and learn at school.
- It means that, even when we've taught Harvey to read (and we'll do that quickly), he'll struggle to understand many of the words on the page.
- Our aim is to provide children with the breadth and depth of vocabulary they'll need to understand the books they'll soon read for themselves, and the conversations and discussion they will have with their teachers and friends. Time is not on Harvey's side, so we needed to plan specifically and systematically.

From 'Talk Through Stories' (Ruth Miskin Training)

THE DIFFERENCE THAT GOOD QUALITY ORACY TEACHING MAKES…

Children with good communication skills are four times more likely to get five A*-Cs at GCSE.

(Better Communication Research Programme)

High-quality spoken dialogue in primary classrooms can significantly improve children's educational attainment, from improving SAT results in maths and science to improving reading, writing and reasoning skills.

(The Communication Trust)

Success for All Phonics

We follow our systematic synthetic phonics teaching programme which is validated by the DfE and supports children to develop their phonics and reading skills.

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A reminder ……

phoneme

The smallest unit of sound in a word

Say ‘nephew’ slowly

How many phonemes or sounds can you hear?

n /e/ ph/ ew

grapheme

A phoneme written down is called a grapheme.

Some graphemes represent more than one phoneme.

‘oo’ has two different phonemes as in ‘book’ and ‘zoo’.

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A reminder …

digraph	A grapheme that has 2 letters to make one sound
split - digraph	A digraph that is split up by a consonant
trigraph	A grapheme that has 3 letters to make one sound

ea sh

oe a-e

e-e i-e

ire ear

igh

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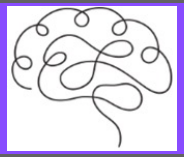

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A reminder …

GPC

- Grapheme phoneme correspondence
- The relationship of the grapheme and the phoneme that represents it.
- To see the grapheme ‘ea’ and know the sound that it will make. (tea)
- To hear the sound /ea/ and know how to write the corresponding grapheme.

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What happens in daily lessons

- **Each day:**
- revisit phonemes and graphemes
- consolidate learning before new content is introduced
- orally blend
- segment
- read words and then sentences

- **Also:**
- learn the alphabet
- how to write letters in upper and lower case
- write simple words and then sentences

- **Reading:**
- daily opportunities to apply their learning into reading
- discussing the text to develop their comprehension skills

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Shared Reader 40: Highland Summer

Success for All Phonics

Shared Reader 40
ir

Highland Summer

Written by Elizabeth Charman
Illustrated by Jessica Hunt

Green words

Practises ir, wh

first	girl	twirls
thirst	birthday	which
bird	Kirstin	when
chirps	skirt	whirl
birch	swirls	whirr
fir	firm	

Red words

Previous red word

after*

New red words

any	could	many
who		

*This word may be tricky depending on regional accent.

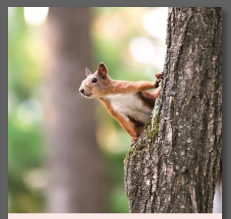
Can you answer these questions about the book?

1. Where is Balmoral?
2. Who visits Balmoral at the end of summer?
3. Which bird might you see hunting?
4. Which sorts of tree might you see at Balmoral?
5. Is Kirsten good at twirling?
6. Do you think Balmoral is a good spot to visit?

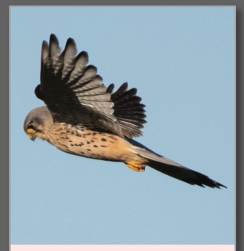
At the end of summer, the Queen has a holiday at Balmoral in north-east Scotland. It is a big grand house with towers and gardens. It stands on the banks of the river Dee. Before and after the Queen's holiday, you can visit too.

In the woods you might hear the chirps of a robin.

A bigger wild animal at Balmoral is the stag with his antlers. He roams the hills but at dusk, when he has a thirst, he comes to the river to drink.



At first you might not see the wild animals in the woods. But after a bit, if you are still, a red squirrel might peep out.

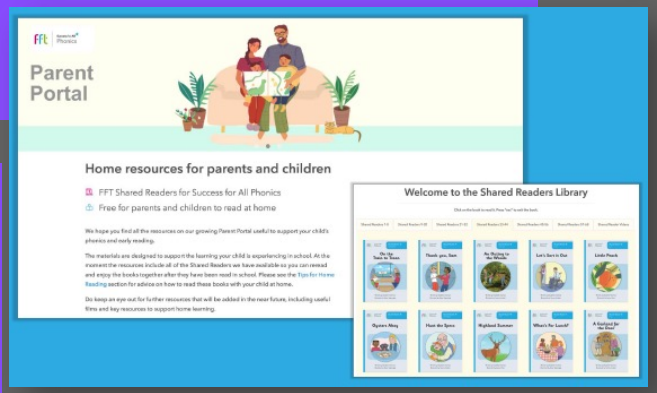


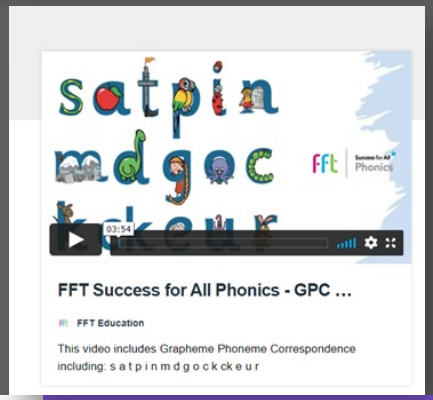
A hunting bird, a kestrel, hovers up high. Look out, mouse!

Balmoral's woods have beech, ash and oak trees. And more fir trees than you can count!

How can I help my child?

- Advice on how to support your child which you can read on our Parent Portal: https://parents.fft.org.uk/tips-for-home-reading/
- Watch videos on the Parent Portal of how to pronounce the GPCs
- Use the alliterative phrases to support your child in practising the GPC
- Practise reading the Shared Readers at home
- Also share other exciting books for pleasure and allow them to hear others read.





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Tips to help

Top Tips

- Know that a **GPC is a grapheme phoneme correspondence**. That means a sound is matched to one or more written letters: /a/ /ai/ /ay/.

- Saying **pure sounds** is important
  - some sounds stretch e.g. m, n, r
  - say them softly and say a word that begins with the sound to help.
  - try to avoid a big 'Uh' sound at the end

- Be aware that your child will be learning GPCs each week and applying them to reading and writing.

- The Shared Reader you practise at home with your child will include the focus GPC that they have just learnt that week.

- They will have also read that Shared Reader in class that week. We will send this home on a Friday. Then a further reader the following Monday.

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Tips to help

Top Tips

- Understand that it is important not to rush on with reading books that contain unknown GPCs
- We are embedding and consolidating learning in a systematic and progressive way
- Know that Green words are decodable (you can use phonics to read them)
- Red words are tricky words which means they have parts that are not decodable and need to be memorised.
- Green and red words will be sent home as spellings.
- Reading for pleasure is always welcomed- hearing you read and listening to stories and rhymes is an important part of childhood learning.
- It is however important for children to master phonics as their primary decoding strategy so don't try to push your child on too quickly.

Green words

Practises ir, wh

first	girl	twirls
thirst	birthday	which
bird	Kirstin	when
chirps	skirt	whirl
birch	swirls	whirr
fir	firm	

Red words

Previous red word

after*

New red words

any	could	many
who		

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Question time!

We are always here to help!

https://parents.fft.org.uk/phonic-and-writing-phrases/

Parent code: yx0f5k

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