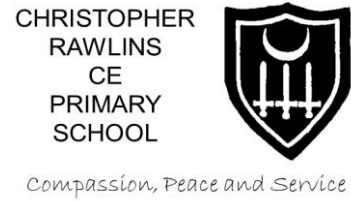


What is phonics?



How is it taught at Christopher Rawlins?

Phonics

How does it link with reading?

How can I help at home?

What is phonics?

Phonics – a method of teaching children to read and spell using the sounds that words are made up of.

Phoneme – an individual sound made up of one or more letters

Grapheme – the written version of a phoneme

Digraph – two letters working together to make one sound e.g. sh, ee, oi

Trigraph – three letters working together to make one sound e.g. igh

Split vowel digraph – two letters working together but split by another letter

Blending – putting the pure sounds together to read a word (reading)

Segmenting – hearing each individual sound and using that to write (spelling)

b c r a

sh ll ai ow

igh

b a k e

How is phonics taught at Christopher Rawlins?

We have chosen to use a scheme entitled “Essential Letters and Sounds.” This is published by Oxford University Press, and there are a good selection of books that we can use alongside this scheme.

We have access to some of this scheme already, and are waiting for the rest of the resources.

How is phonics taught at Christopher Rawlins?

In Nursery, children focus on pre-reading skills. These include:

- Instrumental sounds
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Alliteration
- Voice sounds
- Oral blending

How does phonics link with reading?

pig

simple graphemes

chair

digraphs and trigraphs

cake

split vowel digraphs

rainbow

compound words

difficult

polysyllabic words

progression



How does phonics link with reading?

The aim of phonics teaching is that children learn to read and spell with fluency. They will then be able to use phonics as a life skill, such as when a new dinosaur species is discovered...

Spinosaurus was a type of dinosaur which hunted a prehistoric sawfish called Onchopristis.

Does phonics help me read everything?

to

come

the

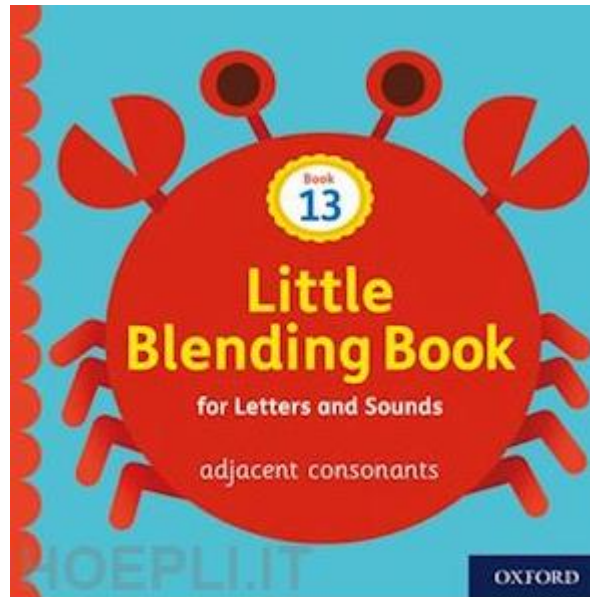
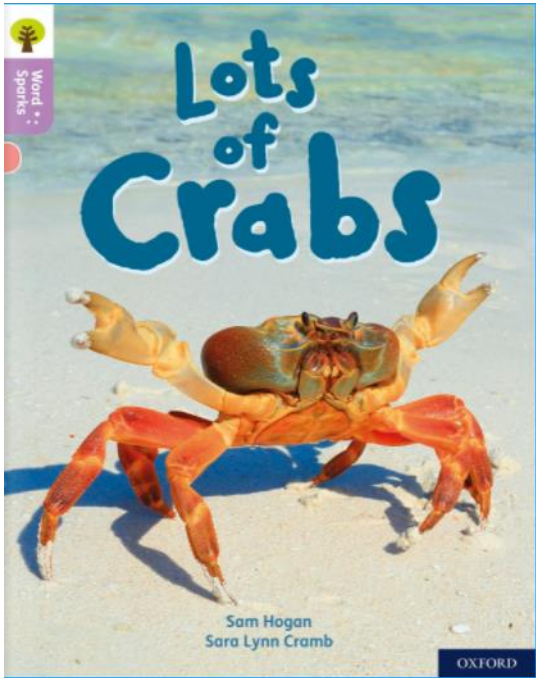
said

by

Many common words in English cannot be fully sounded out phonetically in the early stages of reading as they rely on phonics codes that are more complex. These are known as “harder to read and spell words” or “tricky words.”

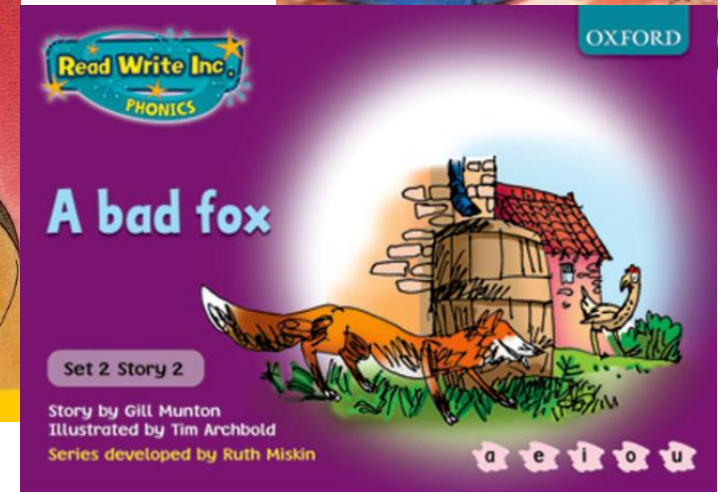
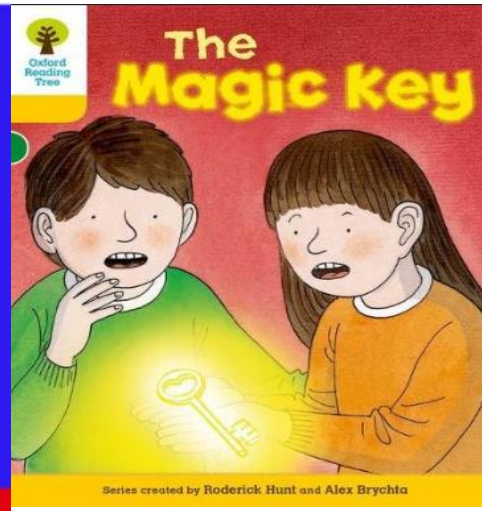
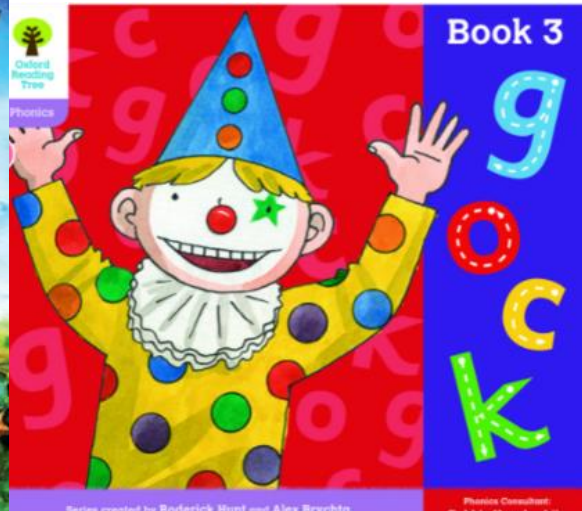
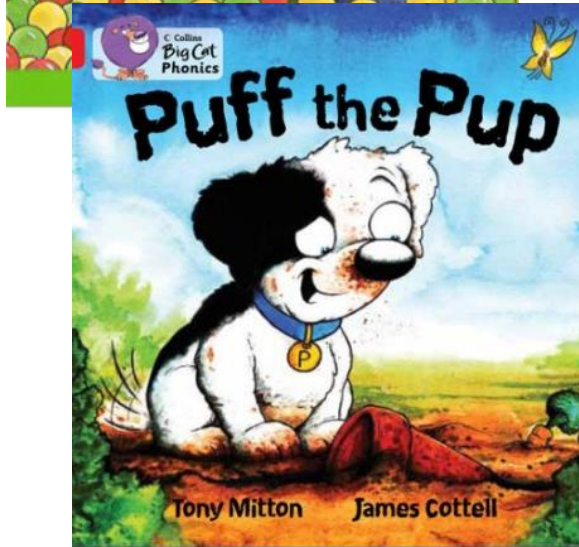
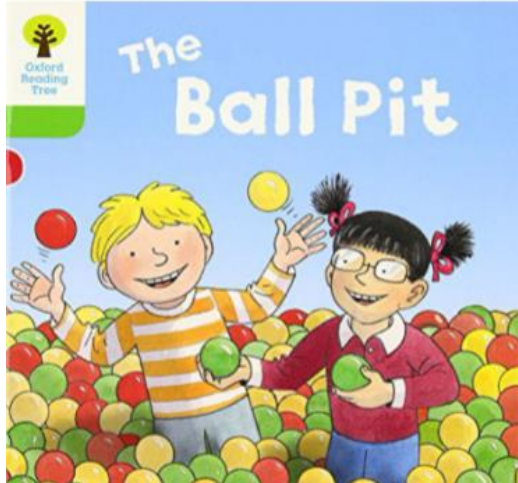
Two types of reading books: 1. Decodable readers

Children in Reception and Year 1 will use these once a week and bring them home to read to you. These only have the sounds that they have been taught so far.



Two types of reading books: 2. Shared readers

Books that are in our reading scheme but that don't fully match the phonics scheme will still be used. Children will be on a particular level (designated by a colour as they are now) and will change their own books when they have read them. These may contain words and sounds that children haven't directly been taught so we are re-labelling these as "shared readers" – books to be shared with you.



How can I help at home?

- 1. Keep reading to and with your child.**
- 2. Have conversations**
- 3. Practise phonics and use and encourage pure sounds.**
- 4. Practise tricky words (and use the letter names.)**
- 5. Play games with words.**
- 6. Foster a love of reading.**
- 7. If you have younger children, only use a dummy for sleep time.**

The aim is for fluency and a love of reading.