



# John Donne Primary School

Woods Road, Peckham, SE15 2SW

## John Donne uses the 'Letters and Sounds' guide to teaching phonics, from Nursery onwards.

Ruth Moyler\* has devised an effective multi-sensory approach to 'Letters and Sounds' which is known as 'Fabulous Phonics' and is embedded across EYFS/KS1.

The Fabulous Phonics approach is comprised of several elements:

- The use of 'Sound Boxes' within the classroom for each phoneme and digraph. Sound boxes contain toys and real objects, which are meaningful and memorable to the children; these can be handled, matched, sorted and used for inspirational sentences and story-telling. Children love these boxes!
- The use of 'Interplaylands'  
'Interplaylands' are complex imaginative lands for small world toys fixed on a circular wooden base. The 4 worlds are linked together by secret doorways, enabling small groups of children to share play experiences by linking their ideas together, encouraging shared talk, and enhancing vocabulary. Each dedicated mini peg person has that child's photo face upon it, so that he/she can enter the play and personalise their spoken sentences.  
The Nursery 'Interplaylands' is based on a Traditional Tales theme. The children are introduced to Goldilocks and the 3 Bears, The 3 Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood and Homeland. The children help each other to re tell these tales, and to extend their working vocabulary.  
The Reception 'Interplaylands' uses the themes of the first 4 weeks: there is a 'Jungle', 'Pirate Island' a 'Homeland' and a 'Castle.' These themes are further linked to the teaching of groups of letters, 3 letters a week, in the order suggested by 'Letters & Sounds'.  
E.g. Week 1 introduces; s, a and t and the theme is The Jungle, so the children learn about snakes, ants and tigers through stories, songs and by using small world toys. Children find objects in the learning environment to add to their story telling
- The use of bespoke songs as memorable teaching resources:
  - Phase 2 /3 Grapheme and phoneme recognition is enhanced with a song called 'Eating the Alphabet' this song is taught in the Summer term in Nursery, and from the first term in Reception. 'Eating the Alphabet' uses a simple traditional tune to introduce the letter sounds, each with the grapheme, an illustration, and the appropriate 'Jolly Phonics' gesture to accompany each letter.



National Support School  
designated by  
  
National College for  
Teaching & Leadership



Tel: 020 7639 0594  
E-mail: [office@jdacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@jdacademy.org.uk)  
Website: [www.jdacademy.org.uk](http://www.jdacademy.org.uk)  
Headteacher: Miss Jo Rooney  
School Business Manager: Naz Begum  
Company Number: 8791046

-The teaching of Phase 3 digraphs is accompanied by the use of illustrated 'silly sentences' with a memorable rhyme, in the form of a song called: 'Digraph Ditty'

Both original songs have been written and illustrated by Ruth Moyler, and were recorded for wider use by Alice Grant in 2018. Both are available as separate sound files.

Many parents have told us that they now have these songs on their mobile phones and find them a valuable resource in support of their child's reading progress.

- The use of bespoke stickers, collected week by week by Reception children in order to eventually fill their own empty 'Alphabet Chart' which they keep at home. Since it is usual for Reception children to learn 3 new letters every week in Phase 2, they have 3 stickers to take home on a Friday. We encourage parents to display the Alphabet chart in a prominent place at home so that the whole family can share this learning! The collection of these stickers is very popular with the children and their parents and besides the obvious motivational effect, it also provides each child with a high quality resource to keep at home, further linking home and school.
- The use of high quality texts to emphasize the teaching of a particular letter or digraph. We use 'Power of reading' texts as recommended by CLPE to ensure that the children hear excellent stories read, and can use those with a dominant letter sound or rhyming digraphs to form strong associations with the letter/digraph being learnt. There is always a choice of books to be used, and a wide range of books to choose from- the whole emphasis being upon the enjoyment of reading!
- Regular Family Reading Workshops. Ruth Moyler commits to meeting with the parents of Reception children once every 6 weeks, in order to build parent confidence in their own use of 'Letters and Sounds' as their child begins to read. These meetings use a hands-on workshop approach to adult learning, free paper resources are given out to use at home, and parents tell us that they find them very helpful.

**Sessions are held on a Thursday in the Sunshine Room, 9:00am-9:45am, once every Half Term.**

Watch out for dates in the weekly School Newsletter, or class fliers and posters.