



Coxheath Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Phonics

From next week the children in Reception will begin to learn phonics. The teaching of phonics will be interactive and engaging and will take place daily within their classes. We follow the teaching order of phonics on the Letters and Sounds website but teach these sounds predominantly through songs and actions from Jolly Phonics.

Each of these schemes are available to look at on the internet and both websites contain resources, games and ideas for supporting your child with their learning of phonics at home.

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

<https://www.jollylearning.co.uk/resource-bank/>

Each Friday a sheet will be sent home with the sounds that the children will learn the following week. There are usually four sounds per week with the final school day, Friday, being used to consolidate taught sounds and introduce tricky words (those that are not easily decoded.) The first week will cover the sounds 's', 'a', 't' and 'p'. Each day we would love the children to bring in an item or object from home that starts with this sound. On Monday we will be learning 's' and therefore the children may like to bring in a story, or a starfish but not a shell as this is the separate sound 'sh'. The children need not bring an object everyday but should they choose to they would be very welcome. We kindly ask that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name and sanitised before being brought into school. Items will be returned to the child at the end of each school day.

Handwriting

At Coxheath we have a whole school policy on handwriting. For the children in Reception this means that they are taught to write their letters and sounds precursively from the outset. This may mean that letter shapes look a little different from what you may ordinarily expect as each letter has a lead in and a lead out. We find that teaching letter formation and handwriting precursively really helps the children with the flow of cursive (joined up) handwriting as they move up through the school. We will also be sending home a handout showing the precursive handwriting that we use and teach in Year R.

Many thanks for your support.

The Early Years Team.
