



Phase 3 Phonics

Phase 3 phonics will be taught either in small groups or whole class, depending on the needs and levels of the pupils.

In phase 3, pupils will continue to learn new **digraphs**, and will begin to learn some **trigraphs**.

Digraph - A grapheme using two letters to represent one phoneme. We frequently reinforce it with the mantra 'two letters, one sound'. Examples of phase 3 digraphs are: **ai, ee, oa, er**.

Trigraph - A grapheme using three letters to represent one phoneme. We frequently reinforce it with the mantra '**three letters, one sound**'. Examples of phase 3 trigraphs are: **igh, air, ear**.

Below is the order that pupils learn GPCs and tricky words in the first unit of phase 3.

Phase 3 graphemes	New tricky words
ai ee igh oa	
oo oo ar or	was you they
ur ow oi ear	my by all
air er words with double letters: dd mm tt bb rr gg pp ff	are sure pure
longer words	

Pupils continue to learn tricky words alongside the new digraphs and trigraphs. Examples of phase 3 tricky words are: **was, sure, by, they**.

Pupils will continue to practise blending phonemes to read words and apply their knowledge by reading decodable reading books.

The second unit in phase 3 focusses on reviewing and recapping previous learning in order to consolidate understanding. Pupils will also begin to read longer words with more than one digraph.

Below is the order that pupils learn GPCs and tricky words in the first unit of phase 3.

Phase 3 graphemes	No new tricky words
review Phase 3: ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur oo ow oi ear	Review all taught so far Secure spelling
review Phase 3: er air words with double letters longer words	
words with two or more digraphs	
longer words words ending in -ing compound words	
longer words words with s in the middle /z/ s words ending -s words with -es at end /z/	

Please see the [Parent Area](#) of the Little Wandle website for information on phase 3 GPCs and blending.