



Welcome to...

Phonics and Reading

Workshop

September 2023

Get to know the people either side of you and answer the book quiz questions!





*“Reading is to the mind
what exercise is to the
body.”*

Reception

Phonics and Reading Workshop

September 2023

*“Children are made
readers on the laps of
their parents.”*



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO COVER?

- What is Phonics?
- What is Essential Letters and Sounds?
- How we teach phonics
- ELS progression
- Supporting your child with reading at home
- Pronouncing pure sounds

WHAT IS PHONICS AND WHY DO WE TEACH IT?

- Method of teaching beginners to read and pronounce words by learning to associate letters or letter groups with the sounds they represent.
- There are 26 letters in the alphabet but there are 44 main sounds in the English Language. Each sound is represented by a grapheme (the written representation of a sound).
- English is one of the most challenging languages to learn as there are so many ways to spell the sounds of our language.



THE 'A' SOUND...

...has many different spellings

a – acorn

eigh – eight

ai – rain

ey – they

ay – play

ea – great

a-e – name

aigh – straight

THE TECHNICAL BIT!

A **phoneme** is the smallest single identifiable of **sound** in a word. For example, in the word 'cat' there are three phonemes c/a/t.

A **grapheme** is a way of writing down a phoneme. It can be made up of..

1 letter - p

2 letters - sh

3 letters - igh

4 letters - ough

Digraph: two letters making one sound. For example, /sh/ in the word 'shop'.

Trigraph: three letters making one sound. For example, /igh/ in the word 'night'.

Split digraph: two vowel letters split but are split by one or more consonants. For example, /a-e/ in the word 'cake'.

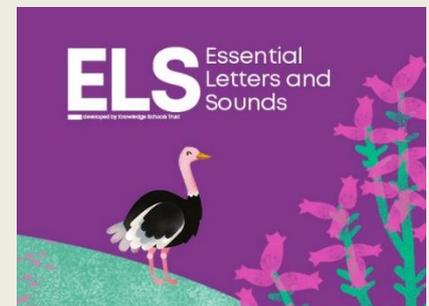


ESSENTIAL LETTERS AND SOUNDS

ELS was created to ensure every child can read well, quickly.

The principles of ELS are based upon:

- the delivery of whole-class, high-quality first teaching with well-structured daily lesson plans
- the use of consistent terminology by teachers, children and parents
- the use of consistent resources that support effective teaching
- repetition and reinforcement of learning
- regular and manageable assessment to ensure that all children ‘keep up’ rather than ‘catch up’



ESSENTIAL LETTERS AND SOUNDS

It teaches children to decode words by identifying each of the written sounds within the word before blending them together to read.



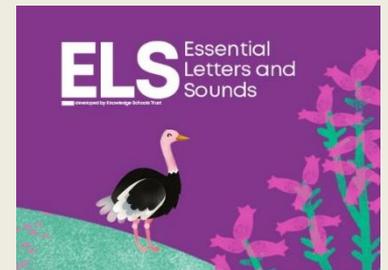
Robot arms

When sound-talking a word (orally segmenting it into the phonemes within the word), we use robot arms to physically make the link between the separating of the sounds. This assists children in hearing the separate sounds within the word. The word is said in 'robot talk' and then blending hands are used to blend the word.

Me, then you...

mat – m-a-t ship - sh-i-p spoon - s-p-oo-n

This is a challenging process for children to learn and takes time and lots of practice to master.



HOW IS ELS TAUGHT?

- We use a simple, consistent approach to teaching phonics.
- Your child will experience the same classroom routines within each lesson which reduces cognitive load and maximises the chances of success.
- 20 – 30 minutes everyday starting right from the beginning of Reception
- Hard to Read and Spell words
- Constant revision throughout the day to review new sounds & graphemes taught
- Lots of opportunities for oral blending - c/oa/t
- Main focus is on word recognition. However, new vocabulary is also given and explained in every lesson.
- Opportunities for writing - new grapheme, words and sentences.
- In every single ELS lesson, your child will make the direct application to reading.



ELS PROGRESSION

'If a child knows 8 nursery rhymes by heart by the time they are 4 years old, they are usually among the best readers and spellers in their class by the time they are 8"

Mem Fox



Phase 1*	Phase 2	Phase 3**
<p><i>Nursery/Pre-School</i></p> <p>Seven aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental sounds • Instrumental sounds • Body percussion • Rhythm and rhyme • Alliteration • Voice sounds • Oral blending 	<p><i>Reception/Primary 1 Autumn 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral blending • Sounding out and blending with 23 new grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) • 12 new harder to read and spell (HRS) words 	<p><i>Reception/Primary 1 Autumn 2, Spring 1 and Spring 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral blending • Sounding out and blending with 29 new GPCs • 32 new HRS words • Revision of Phase 2

Reception/Primary 1 Autumn 1: Phase 2					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
/s/ <s>	/i/ <i>	/g/ <g>	/k/ <ck>	/s/ <ss>	/h/ <h>
/a/ <a>	/n/ <n>	/o/ <o>	/e/ <e>	Assess and review week	/b/
/t/ <t>	/m/ <m>	/c/ <c> <k>	/u/ <u>	R:1	/f/ <f> <ff>
/p/ <p>	/d/ <d>		/r/ <r>		/l/ <l> <ll>
	I, the, no	put, of, is	to, go, into	pull	as, his

ELS PROGRESSION

Phase 4**	Phase 5 including alternatives and lesser-known GPCs	Beyond Phase 5
<p><i>Reception/Primary 1 Summer 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral blending • No new GPCs • No new HRS words • Word structures – cvcc, ccvc, ccvc, cccvc, cccvcc • Suffixes • Revision of Phase 2 and Phase 3 	<p><i>Reception/Primary 1 Summer 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Phase 5 for reading • 20 new GPCs • 16 new HRS words <p><i>Year 1/Primary 2 Autumn 1 and 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of previously taught Phase 5 GPCs • 2 new GPCs • 9 new HRS words <p><i>Year 1/Primary 2 Spring 1 and 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative spellings for previously taught sounds • 49 new GPCs • 4 new HRS words • Oral blending • Revision of Phase 2, Phase 3 and Phase 4 	<p><i>Year 1/Primary 2 Summer, Year 2/Primary 3 and Key Stage 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With ELS, phonics teaching does not stop at the end of Year 1, but continues as children move through the school, with links being made between their GPC knowledge and spelling • Revision of all previously taught GPCs for reading and spelling • Wider reading, spelling and writing curriculum



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD TO READ AT HOME

We want all our children to leave primary school able to read well and confidently – you can support us in this journey.

- *Only 1 in 3 children are read a bedtime story*
- *Reading a bedtime story every night to your child improves their outcomes*
- *If your child views themselves as a 'good reader' when they leave Primary School they are more likely to earn a higher salary in their 40s.*

As per the scheme, initially, we will be sending home two books a week and change these each Friday.

One is a wordless book to develop storytelling and vocabulary (please support your child in retelling a story as opposed to just describing what they can see on the page) and one matched to the phonics being taught in school.

After the October half term, the children will bring home only one book per week, directly linked to the ELS scheme.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD TO READ AT HOME

Re-reading words and sentences until fluent is a key part of learning to read. To best support us in teaching your child to read, we ask that you read the decodable text provided by the school **four times** across the week. This will allow your child to re-read each text several times, building their confidence and fluency. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelled in different ways.

Spending 5 -10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them on their journey to becoming an independent reader.



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH READING AT HOME

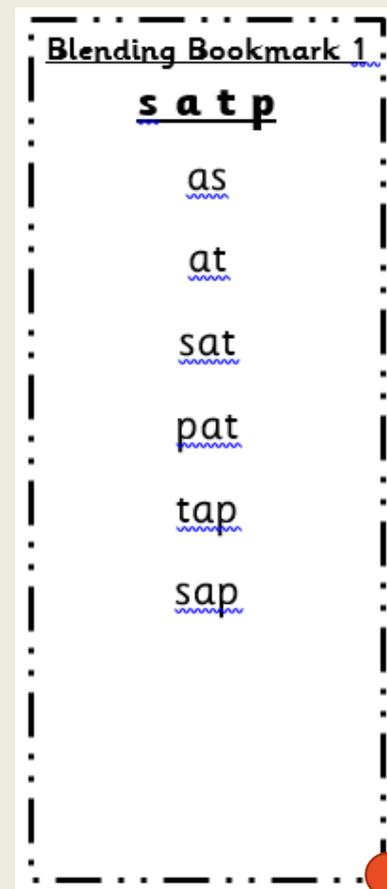
Children are only reading from books that are entirely decodable. The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home.

We want them to practise reading their book 4 times across the week working on these skills:

- decoding
- fluency - reading with ease and precision
- Expression/comprehension of the text

Blending Bookmarks

You can also support your child's reading by practising robot arms at home.



RECORDING READING AT HOME

- Each time your child reads at home, please include the date, make a short comment and initial in their reading record book.
- The children throughout the school are expected to read their school reading book and/or blending bookmark 4 times a week at home.
- Each week, those who have read 4 times, receive a raffle ticket to put into the class pot. Each term, 2 children from each class are selected at random from the pot, to join Mr Smith for hot chocolate and a story.



PRONOUNCING PURE SOUNDS

We only use pure sounds when decoding words (no 'uh' after the sound)

We must use pure sounds when we are pronouncing the sounds and supporting children in reading words.

If we mispronounce these sounds we will make reading harder for our children.

Phase 2 sounds ELS

Phase 3 sounds ELS

HARDER TO READ AND SPELL WORDS

Some words, we cannot decode (sound out phonetically) these are called 'Harder to Read and Spell Words'.

These words the children have to learn to read by sight.

They will learn approximately 3 per week.

e.g. the no pull there children

The children will be issued with a 'Harder to Read and Spell Word' card, each week the new words will be added to this.

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE PROFILE - READING

Early Learning Goal

Comprehension

- Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary
- Anticipate – where appropriate – key events in stories
- Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role-play.

Word Reading

- Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs
- Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending
- Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.

Children who read regularly at home really do make more progress with their reading than those who do not.

Please ensure children's book bags and reading folders are brought into school every day.

