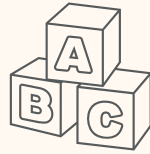




PHONICS NEWSLETTER

ST BEDE'S PRIMARY
SCHOOL



SPRING 2

OUR AIMS

At St Bede's, we aim to support your child with their reading and writing. We encourage you to read with your child everyday to ensure they are exposed to a wide range of vocabulary. At St Bede's we teach them skills to compose independent pieces of work. They are able to read and edit their work with the support of their teacher.

OUR CURRICULUM THIS TERM

EYFS	In Reception, the children are reviewing the Units 8,9 and 10. We are now moving onto Unit 11. This focuses on 'two letter one sound' digraphs such as; sh, th and ch. The children are writing simple sentences and consolidating tricky words such as; the, to, go and no.
KS1	In KS1, the children have been continuing to review previous units and learn polysyllabic words. The children have been applying their phonics in their independent writing.

WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON?

Our St Bede's Readers and Writers and continuing to work very hard!

In Early Years, the children are working on their phonics and letter formation. These foundational skills support lifelong learning for academic success and lifelong learning.

In KS1, the children are working hard on learning about the extended code. We use "two letters 1 sound" for consonant and vowel digraphs such as; ae, ee, oe and oo.

Each term, this newsletter will highlight the progress the children are making on their phonics. The children will practice different spellings of vowel digraphs and trigraphs and apply this independently in their writing. This will help the children gain independence with their spelling.

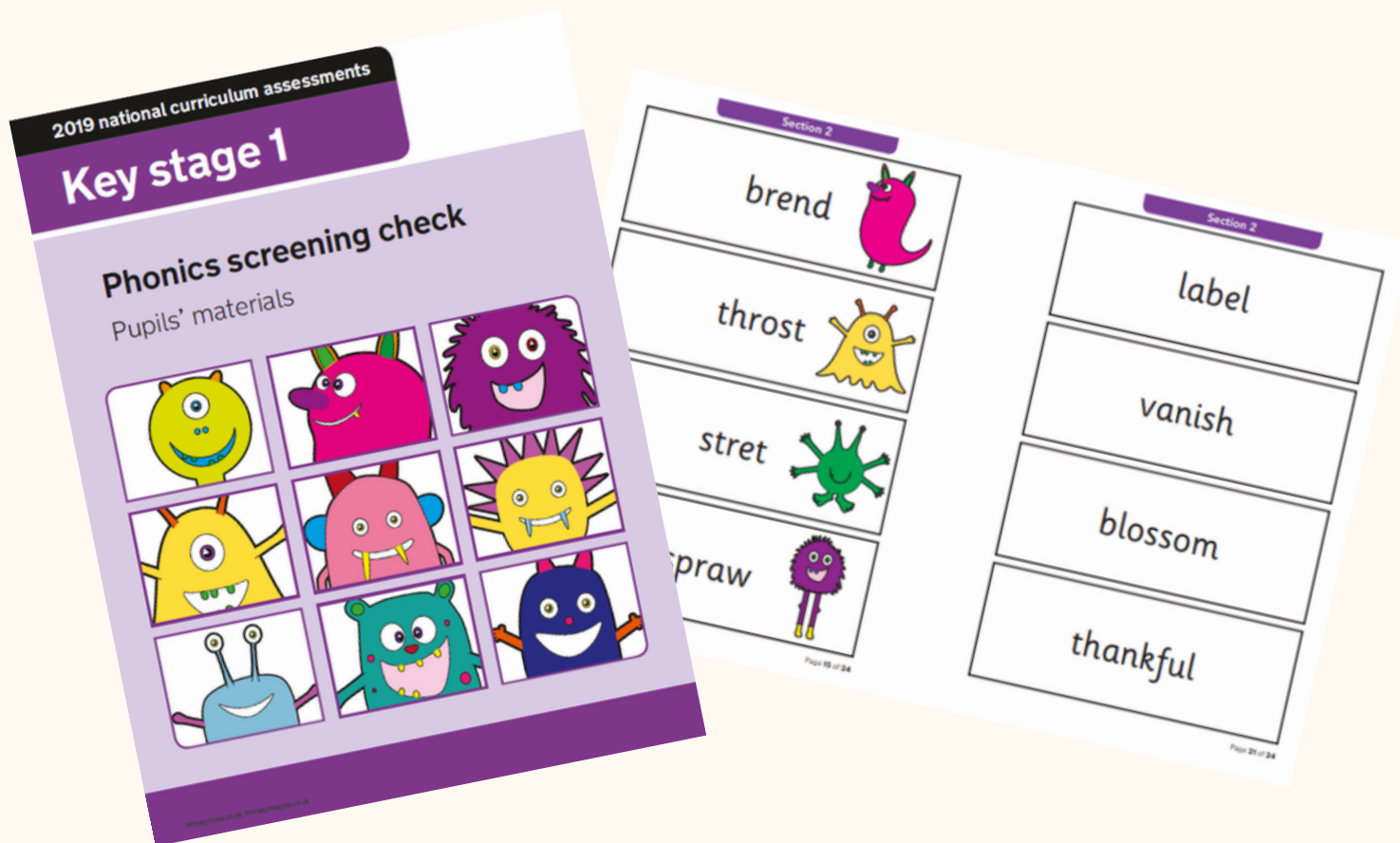
PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

The Phonics Screening Check is a short, simple assessment that all children in Year 1 take part in. It is designed to check how well they can use their phonics knowledge to read both real words and pseudo (made-up) words. The check helps teachers identify any children who may need additional support with early reading, ensuring they continue to make strong progress.

During the check, each child reads 40 words aloud to a familiar adult in a calm, supportive environment. Some of these words are real, while others are specially created nonsense words that test whether children can segment and blend the sounds rather than relying on word recognition. This helps teachers get a clear picture of each child's phonics understanding.

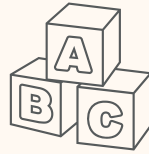
Parents can play a key role in helping children feel confident and prepared. Regular reading at home, even for just a few minutes each day, makes a big difference. Playing phonics games, practising segmenting and blending sounds, and encouraging children to spot digraphs and trigraphs—such as sh, ch, igh, and air—all support their growing fluency. Most importantly, praising effort and keeping reading fun builds confidence and enthusiasm.

The National Phonics Screening Check takes place each year in June. To help parents understand what the check involves and how they can support their child, we will be holding a **Phonics Screening Check meeting in the school hall on 21st April at 2:30pm**. This session will walk families through the process, share examples, and provide practical ideas for home.



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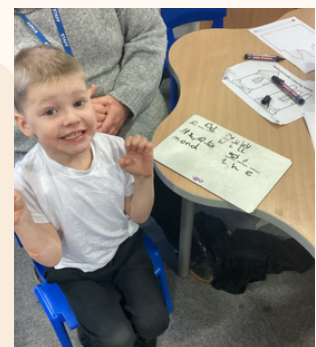
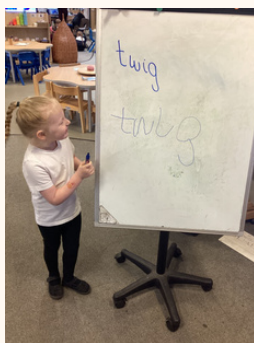
EARLY YEARS FOCUS

Dough Disco is a fun, music-filled activity where children manipulate playdough using actions such as squeezing, rolling it into a ball or sausage, flattening it, and pressing each finger into the dough. These movements help to strengthen the fine-motor muscles in their hands and fingers.

By building this strength, Dough Disco prepares Nursery children for developing a proper pencil grip and supports the early skills they need as they get ready to start writing. And most importantly- it's great fun!

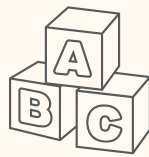
In Reception, the children have continued to build their phonics skills and are making wonderful progress. They have now completed Unit 10 of the Initial Code and have begun Unit 11, where we are introducing two-letter one-sound digraphs such as sh, ch, and th.

Along the way, the children have also been consolidating their understanding of letter-sound correspondences and practising blending to read simple CVC and CVCC words with growing confidence. In addition, they have been learning to recognise and read tricky words including I, the, it's, said, and no.



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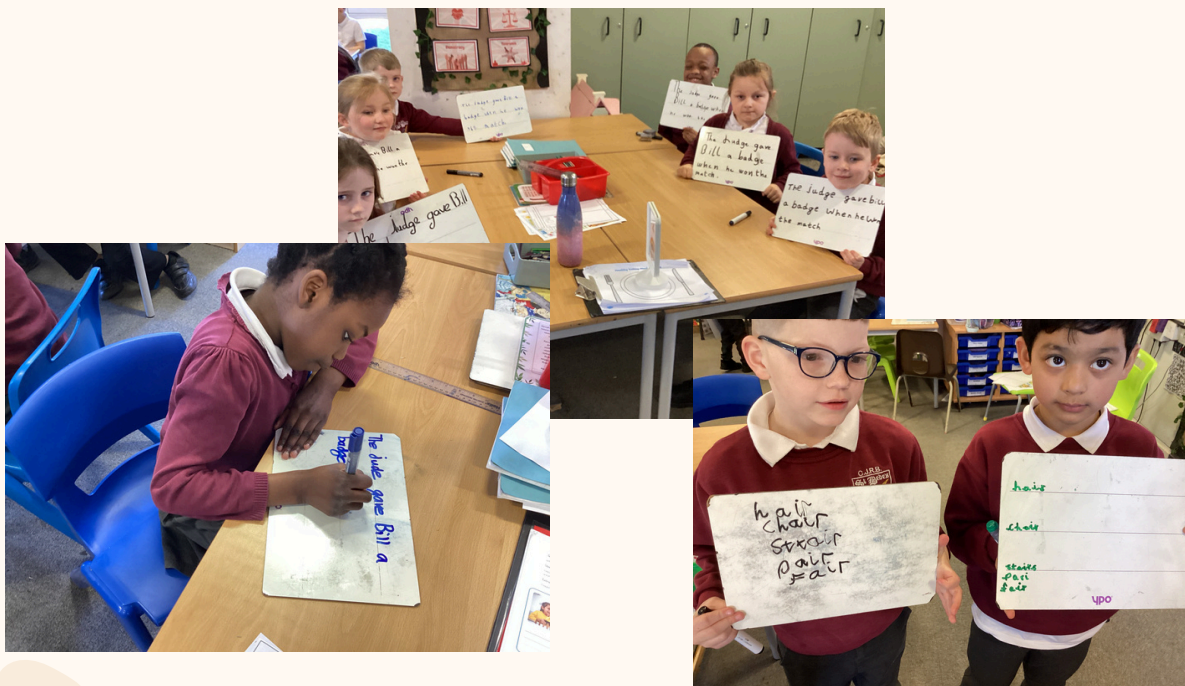
SPRING 2

KS1 FOCUS

This week in KS1, the children have been working confidently on their phonics skills, with a particular focus on dictated sentences and the air sound.

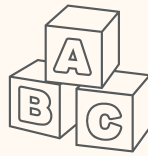
During our phonics sessions, the class practised listening carefully to dictated sentences, holding each sentence in their memory and writing it accurately. This helped them apply their phonics knowledge, punctuation skills, and handwriting all at the same time. The children showed fantastic concentration as they checked their work for capital letters, full stops, and correct spelling choices.

We also explored the air sound, looking at different ways it can be spelled, including air, are, and ear. Through games, word sorting and reading activities, the children identified the air sound in words such as chair, care, and bear, and practised using these words in their own sentences.



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PHONICS AT HOME

Please can you ensure you are reading with your child daily. It is so important to read so that you are modelling how to hold and read their book. These skills will set your child up for life.

Our phonics scheme, Sounds Write, provides parent support and lessons on how you should be reading with your child. This promotes consistency and clarity for your child and will help build their confidence with reading.

Below are some useful websites to support with your child's reading at home:

- <https://sounds-write.co.uk/support-for-parents-and-carers/>
- <https://www.phonicsbloom.com>
- <https://sounds-write.co.uk/ipad-app/>

PHONICS BOOKS AND ACCELERATED READER BOOKS

In Reception and Year 1, your child will be given a phonics book every week and will be collected in on Wednesday and be given a new one on Friday.



If your child is on accelerated reader, this means they will now be focussing on applying their phonics to read their book and build confidence on their comprehension. Your child will be given a book from the reading area which is on their reading level. Please ensure your child has read their book before they quiz.

Thank you for your support on your child's reading journey!