



St Mary's Primary School

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Dear Willow Class Parents

As your children may have told you we have already started our phonics lessons. These lessons take place every day. Although in Year 1 one of the lessons includes a spelling test.

Foundation are learning individual letter sounds. They will learn the lower case and upper case letters. We will blend the sounds of the letters to sound talk words such as, *s a t*. It is important to keep the sound short, e.g. *ssss* not *suh*.

Your child has been given a key ring of the sounds that we have already covered and each week the next sounds will be added to this. Please keep this in your book bag every day, as we will need them in our phonics and reading lessons.

Year 1 will be focusing on the diagraphs, that you will remember from last year. These diagraphs have two or more graphemes but they make one sound, e.g. *ck, ss, zz, ll, ff, qu, ng, sh, ch, th, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ir, oi, ou, ear, air*. We will be blending (reading) and segmenting (spelling) words using these diagraphs. Our handwriting will particularly focus on the ascenders and descenders so they will need to write on the line. You will notice that our letters will start to have out strokes as a gradual progression to join writing.

Your child has been given a key ring of the sounds that we have recapped so far and we will be building them up quite quickly this term. Your child will need to have a rapid recall of these sounds to be able to move to phase 5 in phonics, which focusses on the alternative spellings of the same sound, e.g. *ai, a-e, ay, eigh, a* (not all at once!)

Please could your children use these sound cards to;

- Practise a quick recall (for single sounds practice the name of the letter and the sound that it makes).
- Practise finding these sounds in their reading books.
- Practise segmenting words using the different sounds.

If you have any questions about our phonics lessons please don't hesitate to ask.

Mrs Blankley and Mrs Cruttenden