

We forget how it feels to have to sound every word out.

Have a go at reading this to help you remember!

dluohs olaffurG on taht dias olaffurG ehT
.doow krad peed eht ni toof tes reve

“?ton yhw, ton yhW”

.”uoy refta eb lliw esuom dab gib eht od uoy fi esuaceB”



ST NICHOLAS
C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
KENILWORTH



ELS Essential Letters and Sounds

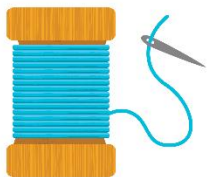
developed by Knowledge Schools Trust

Getting all children to
read well, quickly.



What are we going to cover?

- What is Phonics?
- What is Essential Letters and Sounds?
- How we teach phonics and terminology used
- Getting children ready to read
- Supporting your child with reading at home
- Pronouncing pure sounds
- Using the letter formations and spelling sequence to support writing at home

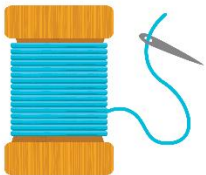


What is Phonics?

The ability to read and write well is a vital skill for all children, paving the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience.

A method of teaching beginners to read and pronounce words by learning to associate letters or letter groups with the sounds they represent.

There are 44 main sounds in the English Language. Each sound is represented by a grapheme (the written representation of a sound).



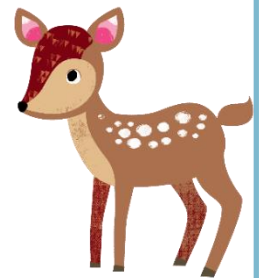
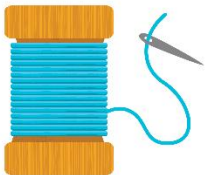
Phonics Consists of:

Identifying sounds in spoken words

Recognising the common spellings of each sound

Blending sounds into words for reading

Segmenting words into sounds for spelling

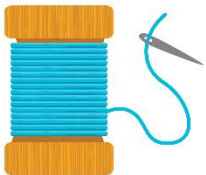


Definitions

A Phoneme

This is the smallest unit of sound in a word.

How many phonemes can you hear in **cat / clown**



Definitions

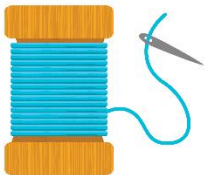
A grapheme

These are the letters that represent the phoneme.



OW

OU



Definitions

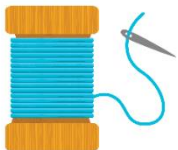
A phoneme you hear



A grapheme you see



A word always has the same number of phonemes and graphemes!



Definitions

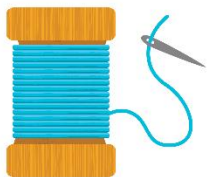
A digraph is a single sound made up of two letters

ai - snail

ay - play

A split digraph is two letters split that make one sound.

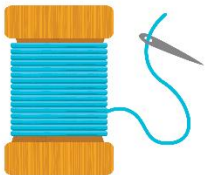
a-e – plane



Definitions

A trigraph is a single sound made up of three letters.

air	ch air
are	sh are
igh	l igh t
ear	f ear

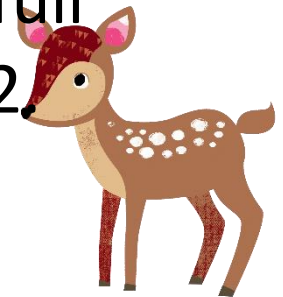


What is ELS?

Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) is our chosen phonics programme

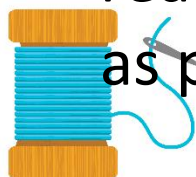
Children will experience the joy of books and language whilst rapidly acquiring the skills they need to become fluent independent readers and writers.

Phonics is used right through the school, with full lessons in Reception, Year 1 and some of Year 2.



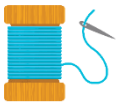
How do we teach phonics?

- We teach phonics every single day right from the start of Reception.
- Lessons are supported by:
 - Whiteboard presentations
 - Flashcards
 - Workbooks
 - Reading books
- In every lesson children make a direct application to reading, focusing on the sounds taught that day as well as previously taught sounds.



How do we teach phonics?

- We use a simple, consistent approach to teaching phonics. This helps make the link between the spoken sounds of our language and the written version of that sound.
- We have mnemonics and rhymes to support learning and recall.



How do we teach phonics?

Lessons are broken down into different sections

Review – Where we go over previously taught sounds and ‘Harder to Read and Spell Words’

Teach – Where we introduce the new phoneme and corresponding grapheme

Practise – Where we practise reading words containing the new sound.

Apply – Where we read sentences containing the new sound and previously taught ones.

How do we teach phonics?

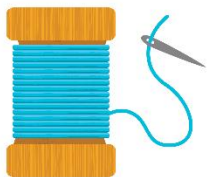
Teach

These words all have the /ai/ sound in.

ay



ay ... ay ... tray
ay ... ay ... play
ay ... ay ... clay



How do we teach phonics?



Practise

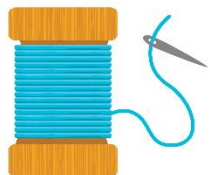
Quit activity 

Read the word. Click on the icon to reveal the picture.

day



 Back 2 of 8 Next 



Practise

Quit activity 

Read the word. Click on the icon to reveal the picture.

spray



 Back 7 of 8 Next 



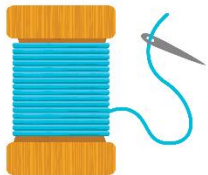
How do we teach phonics?

Apply

Quit activity 

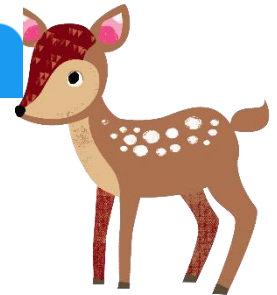
Read the sentence. Click on the icon to reveal the picture.

Put the sheets in the
tray.



1 of 3

Next 

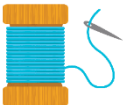


How to say the sounds

- Saying the sounds correctly with your child is extremely important
- The way we say sounds may well be different from when you were at school
 - We say the shortest form of the sounds

For example m, n, t, r

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/essential-letters-and-sounds/>

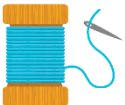


Blending

Recognising the letter sounds in a written word,
for example

c-u-p sh-ou-t

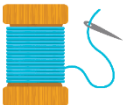
and merging or 'blending' them in the order in
which they are written to pronounce the word
'cup' or 'shout'



Segmenting

The opposite of blending

Identifying the individual sounds in a spoken word (e.g. h-i-m , s-t-or-k) and writing down letters for each sound (phoneme) to form the word him and stork.



Using phonemes to spell

When spelling the children have to try to use the correct grapheme for the phoneme they can hear in the word. This can be quite difficult!

slide

cake

green

slighd

caik

grean

slied

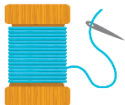
cayk

grene

clide

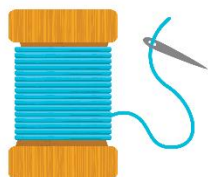
kake

greyn



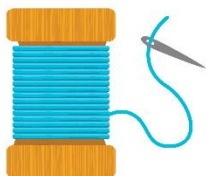
ELS Progression

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 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 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



ELS Progression

Phase 4**	Phase 5 including alternatives and lesser-known GPCs	Beyond Phase 5
<p><i>Reception Summer 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral blending • No new GPCs • No new HRS words • Word structures – cvcc, ccvc, ccvcc, cccvc, cccvcc • Suffixes • Revision of Phase 2 and Phase 3 	<p><i>Reception 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 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 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 Summer, Year 2 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

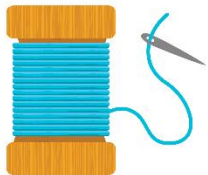


Phonics screening check

The phonics screening check will be taken individually by all children in Year 1 in England in June 2024.

It is designed to give you information on how your child is progressing in phonics.





It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill.

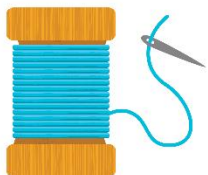


What is in the phonics screening check?

There are two sections in the 40-word check and it will assess phonics skills and knowledge learned through Reception and Year 1. They will probably do the check in one sitting of about 5-10 minutes.

We will make it as low-key as possible – the children will not be informed it's a “test”

Phonics check: Real words	Phonics check: Pseudo words
in	ot 
at	vap 
beg	osk 
sum	ect 

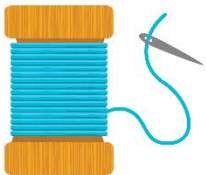


Is there a pass mark?

The check is not really about passing or failing but is checking that appropriate progress is being made.

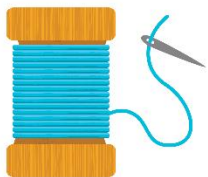
You will receive a letter with your child's report informing you how your child performed in the test and if they met the required standard. If they didn't, further support will be given in Year 2 and into Key Stage 2.

Children progress at different speeds so not reaching the threshold score does not necessarily mean there is a serious problem. Some children do not need to use phonics to help them read and sometimes good readers do not pass the phonics screening check.



Supporting your child with reading at home

- Only 1 in 3 children are read a bedtime story night
- Reading a bedtime story every night to your child improves their outcomes
- Alongside being read to, we would like the children to read at least 3 times a week at home.



Supporting your child with reading at home

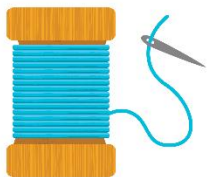
- Children should only read from books that are entirely decodable.
- Your child should be able to read their book confidently. We want them to practise reading their book 3-4 times across the week working on these skills:
 - decode
 - fluency
 - expression
- By reading the same words many times it helps secure children's sound knowledge and develop fluency.
- On the final read ask your child questions about the story, in order to develop their comprehension skills.



Supporting your child with writing at home



You can use the spelling sequence with your children at home to support them with their writing.



What steps should children go through when trying to spell an unfamiliar word?



Whisper the word



Stretch the word



Robot arms



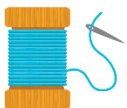
Blend the sounds



Count the sounds in the word



Say the word



When writing a sentence, we will say the sentence several times out loud, before writing it.



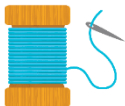
REMEMBER: Phonics is not the only thing needed to become a fluent reader.

Please continue to read with your child each night and encourage them to:

- Sound out
- Re-read to check it makes sense.
- Use pictures for clues.
- Ask questions about the book.



And most importantly **ENJOY READING!**



Questions

