



PHONICS AT ST PETER'S



- Following an update from the Department for Education around phonics teaching we have moved to Essential Letters and Sounds, this is a phonics programme based on Letters and Sounds (2007). This new phonics programme will support your children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers.
- It is a keep-up, not catch-up system. All children are taught at the same time, with quick interventions happening in the afternoon where needed.

What is Phonics?

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).

What is Phonics?

Phoneme: the smallest single identifiable sound in a word.
For example, in the word 'cat' there are three phonemes
c/a/t.

Grapheme: the written representation of a sound.

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'.

What is ELS?

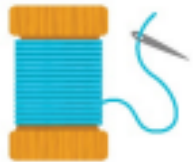
Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) is our chosen phonics programme. It teaches children to read by identify the phonemes (smallest unit of sound) and graphemes (written version of the sound) within words and using these to read words.

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



How do we teach phonics?

- 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.
- All children are supported within the lesson to use their new phonic knowledge independently.
- In every single ELS lesson, your child will make the direct application to reading.



How do we teach phonics?

- Daily Phonics sessions- these start from the beginning of Reception
- Phonics 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.

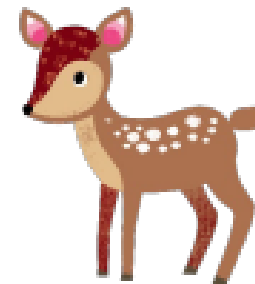
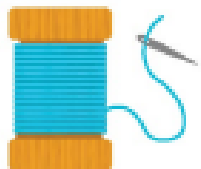


Examples of blending to read

- In class we teach children to sound out each word in sequence using a 'robot arm' for each sound when each sound has been said we then use blending hands to read the whole word. Let's try some examples:
- Cat
- Dog
- Tap

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
- 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.



Supporting your child with reading at home

- Children are only reading from books that are entirely decodable
- We only use pure sounds when decoding words (no 'uh' after the sound)
- We want them to practise reading their book 4 times across the week working on these skills:

decode
fluency
expression



They will only be given a book with words when they are able to blend for reading-assessment based.



Pronouncing pure sounds

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.