

At St Paul's C.E. Primary School, synthetic phonics is taught as the main approach to early reading. Daily, 20 minute phonics sessions are taught in Reception and Year 1. We use the DfE-approved "Supersonic Phonic Friends" to teach phonics, which is active-participative, fast-paced, rigorous and popular with the children. Our aim is for the children to be able to read with accuracy and confidence, and, above all, to love reading.

When learning to read the children will:

- Learn that sounds (phonemes) are represented by written letters (graphemes)
- Learn all the digraphs (sounds represented by two letters) and trigraphs (sounds represented by three letters) to be able to sound out and blend most words for reading.
- Learn that there are a number of words that do not follow this phonetic code and they learn to read these as 'Tricky Sight Words' and are taught through sight recognition.
- Learn to read words using 'sound buttons' (segmenting and blending).
- Read stories featuring words they have learned to sound out.
- Show that they comprehend the stories by answering questions.

Our primary reading scheme for children from reception to year 4 is Big Cat Collins. We also use Bug Club and RWI books to offer a variety of texts.

Teaching phonics

Children in Reception and Year 1 have daily phonics lessons. Where possible, these are in smaller groups than a normal class size. Each phonics session has four parts:

- We revisit and review previous sounds and practise word building
- We teach a new phonic skill (this might be a new grapheme or 'tricky' word)
- We practise reading or writing with this new skill
- Children are given the opportunity to apply their newly learnt skill in different situations.

The sounds are taught in succession and are grouped into levels:

Level 2: s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss.

Level 3: j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu
Consonant digraphs: ch chip, sh shop, th thing, ng string
Vowel digraphs: ai snail, ee see, igh high, oa boat, oo look/zoo, ar car, or fork, ur fur, ow cow/blow, oi boil, ear hear, air fair, ure pure, er letter.

Level 4: consolidating knowledge of graphemes in reading and spelling words containing adjacent consonants and polysyllabic words.

Level 5: ay day, ea eat, ie tie, oe toe, ue blue, a-e make, e-e these, i-e like, o-e home, u-e rule, oy boy, ir girl, ou out, aw saw, wh when, are, kn know, wr write, ph photo, au Paul, gn gnome, ore before, ey key, y happy, ew new, ear bear, or world, tch stitch, dge dodge, er perm.

Alternative pronunciations for graphemes are also taught, e.g. ea in tea, head and break.

From Year 2, The spelling rules outlined in the National Curriculum are taught, using resources published by Twinkl. Children in Years 2 to 4 who need additional support with Phonics receive intervention teaching in small groups, and this teaching uses resources and approaches from the Supersonic Phonics friends scheme.









What is the phonics screening check? The National phonics screening check is a statutory assessment that was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils and is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge. Any children who do not meet the required standard in Year 1 will receive extra support and retake the check in Year 2. Any children who do not pass in Year 2 will continue to receive support until they have a confident knowledge of phonics.

What is in the phonics screening check? It comprises of a list of 40 words and nonsense words. It will assess phonics skills and knowledge learnt through Foundation and Year 1. The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons and will in no way seem like a 'test' to the children.

What are Nonsense or 'Alien' words and why are they included? These are words that can be phonetically decoded but not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. briip, snorb. These words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonic skills and not their memory. The alien words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. The children will be asked what the alien's name is by reading the word. This will make the check a bit more fun and provides the children with a context for the nonsense word. Crucially it does not provide any clues, so your child has to be able to decode it. Children generally find nonsense words amusing so they will probably enjoy reading these words.

On the final page of this booklet you will find links to websites that you can use with your child to help them practice and apply their phonics knowledge! The children at St Paul's love their phonics lessons and will enjoy showing you what they can do!

Our long term plan, progression document and overview of sounds are also available on our website. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher.

Free Phonic Apps	Phonic Apps with a cost
 Pocket Phonics	 Forest Phonics
 Twinkl phonics	 Jolly Phonics songs
 Phonics fun	 Phonics Spelling Dictionary
 Zat Phonics	 Mr Thorne Phonics
 Looney Tunes Phonics	* Not all Apps will work on every device.

Phonics Websites

- <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>
- <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/literacy/
- www.ictgames.com/literacy.htm
- <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy.html>
- <http://www.magickeys.com/books/phonics.html>
- <http://www.mrthorne.com/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>

Phonics

