

At St Andrew's CE Infant School we teach our phonics through 'Letters and Sounds'. Letters and Sounds is the Government document used as a basis to teach phonics in six distinctive phases.

Phase 1

Showing an awareness of rhyme and alliteration.
Distinguishing between sounds in the environment and phonemes in words.
Exploring and experimenting with sounds and words.
Discriminating speech sounds in words.
Beginning to orally blend and segment phonemes.

Phase 3

Knowing one grapheme for each of the 43 phonemes.
There are 43 phonemes in the English language.
Reading and spelling a wide range of cvc words.
Using all letters and less frequent consonant digraphs and some long vowel phonemes

Phase 2

Using common consonants and vowels.
Blending for reading.
Segmenting for spelling simple cvc words.
Understanding that words are constructed from phonemes and that phonemes are represented by graphemes.

Phase 4

This is a consolidation unit.
There are no new graphemes to learn.
Reading and spelling of tricky words continues.
Segmenting adjacent consonants in words, and applying this in spelling.
Blending adjacent consonants in words, and applying this skill when reading unfamiliar texts.

Phase 5

Reading phonetically decodable two and three syllable words.

Using alternative ways of pronouncing and spelling the graphemes corresponding to the long vowel phonemes.

Spelling complex words using phonetically plausible attempts.

Graphemes:

ay, ou, ie, ea, oy, ir, ue, aw, wh, ph, ew, oe, au, a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e

Alternative graphemes for:

l, o, c, g, u, ow, ie, ea, er, a, y, ch, ou

Phase 6

Recognising phonic irregularities and becoming more secure with less common grapheme-phoneme correspondences.

Applying phonic skills and knowledge to recognise and spell an increasing number of complex words.

In addition to this, each week the children learn 'tricky' spelling words and key sight vocabulary.

We teach the children the sounds and what each letter looks like.

A phoneme you hear: this is the sound.

A grapheme you see: this is what the sounds looks like.

Letter Sets

Phase 2 Set 1– s,a,t,p

Set 2 – i,n,m,d

Set 3 – g,o,c,k

Set 4 – ck,e,u r

Set 5 – h,b,f,ff,l,ll,ss

Phase 3

Set 6 – j,v,w,x

Set 7 – y,z,zz,qu,u

Graphemes (digraphs and trigraphs):

ear, air, ure, er, ar, or ,ur ow, oi, ai, ee, igh, oa,
oo

Consonant digraphs:

ch, sh, th, ng

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Sound Buttons and Phoneme Frames

- Sound buttons are dots or loops scribed under the grapheme, to show that one or more letters are representing one sound. They are used to support reading.
- Phoneme frames divide a page into 2, 3, 4 sections. One phoneme is written in each section of the phoneme frame. Children segment a word into sounds by touching their fingers once for each sound, then write the corresponding graphemes into the frame.