

ELS Essential Letters and Sounds

developed by Knowledge Schools Trust

Getting all children to
read well, quickly.

St. John's
Church of England



Primary School
and Nursery

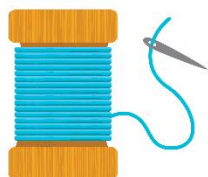


OXFORD

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.



Did you know...

The English language has:

26 letters

44 sounds

Over 100 ways to spell those sounds

It is one of the most complex languages to learn to read and spell.

Words you might hear...

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.

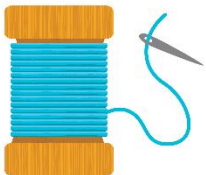
Digraph: two letters making one sound. For example, /sh/ in the word '**sh**op'.

Trigraph: three letters making one sound. For example, /igh/ in the word 'n**igh**t'.

Split digraph: two vowel letters split but are split by one or more consonants. For example, /a-e/ in the word 'c**a**e'.

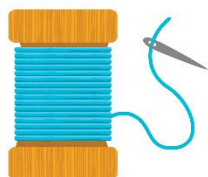
How do we teach phonics?

- We use a simple, consistent approach to teaching phonics.
- We have mnemonics and rhymes to support learning and recall
- We teach phonics every single day from the first days of Reception



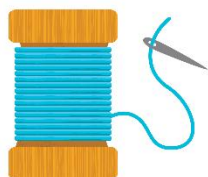
ELS Progression

Phase 1*	Phase 2	Phase 3**
Seven aspects: • Environmental sounds • Instrumental sounds • Body percussion • Rhythm and rhyme • Alliteration • Voice sounds • Oral blending	• Oral blending • Sounding out and blending with 23 new grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) • 12 new harder to read and spell (HRS) words	• Oral blending • Sounding out and blending with 29 new GPCs • 32 new HRS words • Revision of Phase 2



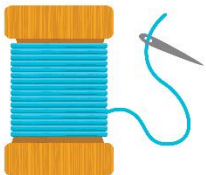
ELS Progression

Phase 4**	Phase 5 including alternatives and lesser-known GPCs	Beyond Phase 5
• Oral blending • No new GPCs • No new HRS words • Word structures – cvcc, ccvc, ccvcc, cccvc, cccvcc • Suffixes • Revision of Phase 2 and Phase 3	• Introduction to Phase 5 for reading • 20 new GPCs • 16 new HRS words <i>Year 1 Autumn 1 and 2</i> • Revision of previously taught Phase 5 GPCs • 2 new GPCs • 9 new HRS words <i>Year 1 Spring 1 and 2</i> • Alternative spellings for previously taught sounds • 49 new GPCs • 4 new HRS words • Oral blending • Revision of Phase 2, Phase 3 and Phase 4	• 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



How do we teach phonics?

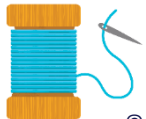
- Phonics is taught every day. We also review new sounds & graphemes taught throughout the day e.g. password to get back in the class.
- Lots of opportunities for oral blending- /c/ /oa/ /t/
- We teach the 'code' for reading, alongside teaching vocabulary.



Phase One

Phase 1 has seven aspects, with a focus on listening skills.

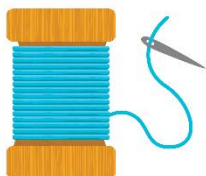
- 1: Environmental sounds
- 2: Instrumental sounds
- 3: Body percussion
- 4: Rhythm and rhyme
- 5: Alliteration
- 6: Voice sounds
- 7: Oral blending and segmenting



How do we teach phonics?

Reception/Primary 1 – Autumn 1

1.	s, a, t, p
2.	i, n, m, d
3.	g, o, c, k
4.	ck, e, u, r
5.	Assessment and Review R:1
6.	h, b, f, ff, l, ll

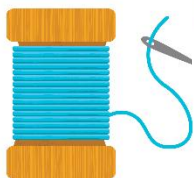
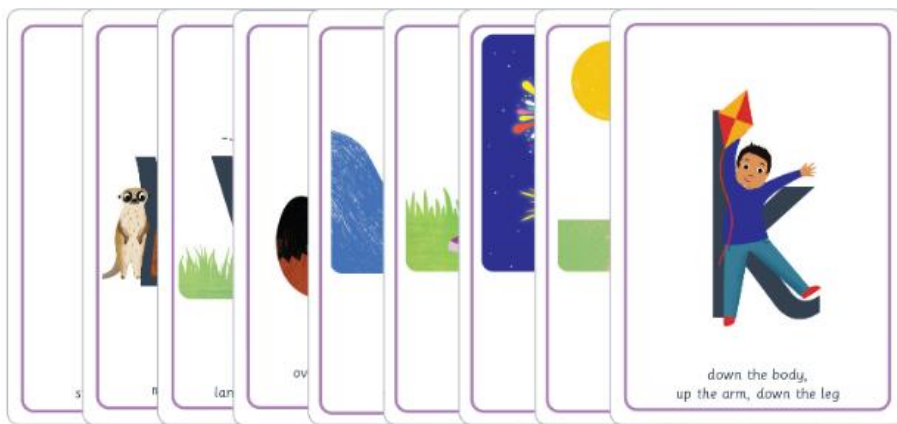


How do we teach phonics?

Review

Are you ready for a challenge?

Let's see how quickly we can say the
sounds represented by the graphemes.



How do we teach phonics?

Review

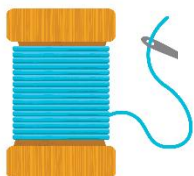
Now let's read these harder to read and spell words together.

a

I

the

Can you use the word 'the' in a sentence?



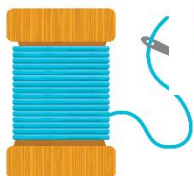
How do we teach phonics?

Review



I am going to sound talk some words.

Can you repeat the sounds, blend
them together and say the word?



How do we teach phonics?

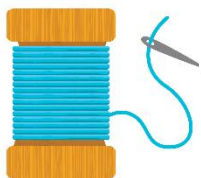
Review

Read these words quickly.

sat

in

pin



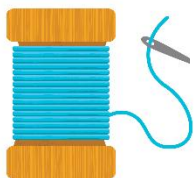
How do we teach phonics?

Teach

Here is another word that is harder to read and spell.

no

Can you use the word 'no' in a sentence?



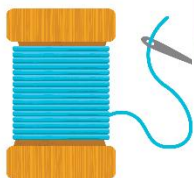
How do we teach phonics?

Teach

Drum roll please ...

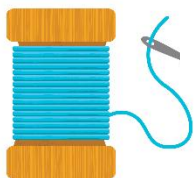


Today's new sound is ...



How do we teach phonics?

m

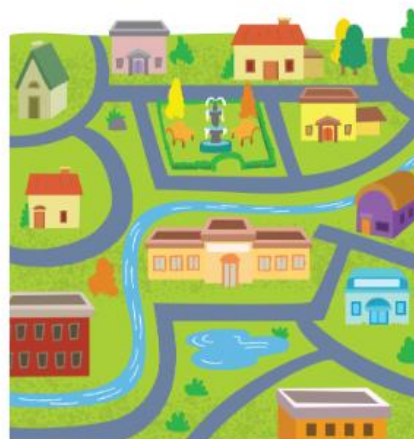


How do we teach phonics?

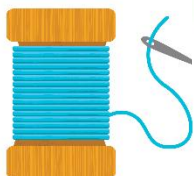
Teach

These words all have the /m/ sound in.

m



m ... m ... meerkat
m ... m ... map
m ... m ... magnet

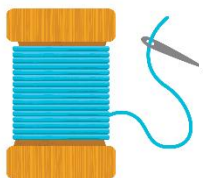


How do we teach phonics?

Teach

Your turn to write <m>.

m

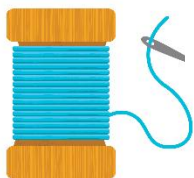


How do we teach phonics?

Practise



Let's read these words with the sound /m/ in.



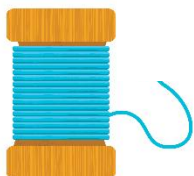
How do we teach phonics?

Practise

Quit activity 

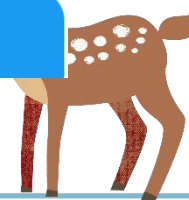
Read the word. Click on the icon to reveal the picture.

man



1 of 3

Next 



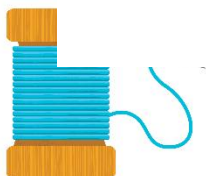
How do we teach phonics?

Practise

Quit activity 

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

man

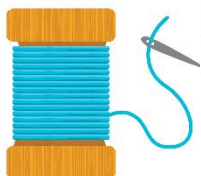
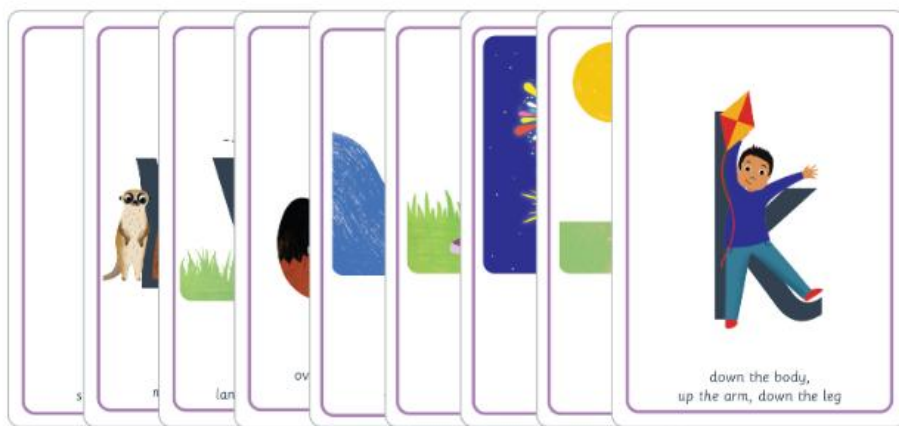


How do we teach phonics?

Practise

Are you ready for a challenge?

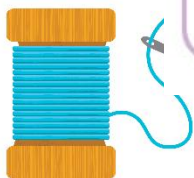
Let's see how quickly we can say the sounds represented
by the graphemes.



How do we teach phonics?

Apply

 Let's read a caption.



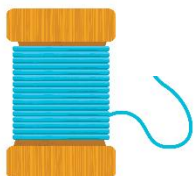
How do we teach phonics?

Apply

Quit activity 

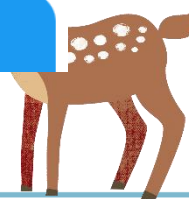
Read the caption. Click on the icon to reveal the picture.

a map



1 of 2

Next



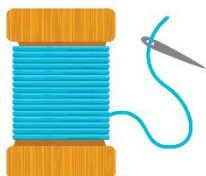
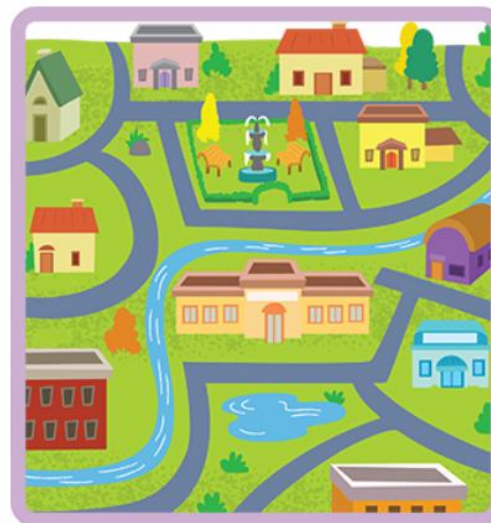
How do we teach phonics?

Apply

Quit activity 

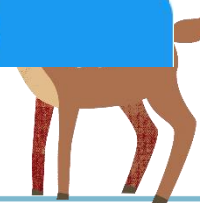
Read the caption. Click on the icon to reveal the picture.

a map



1 of 2

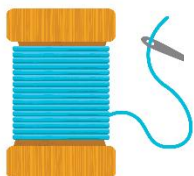
Next 



How do we teach phonics?

Apply

Complete the apply sheet in your Activity Book.



Pronouncing pure sounds

We must use pure sounds when we are pronouncing the sounds and supporting children in reading words.

c a t

not

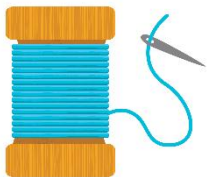
cuh a tuh

If we mispronounce these sounds we will make reading harder for our children.

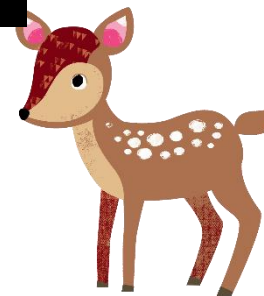
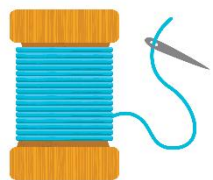
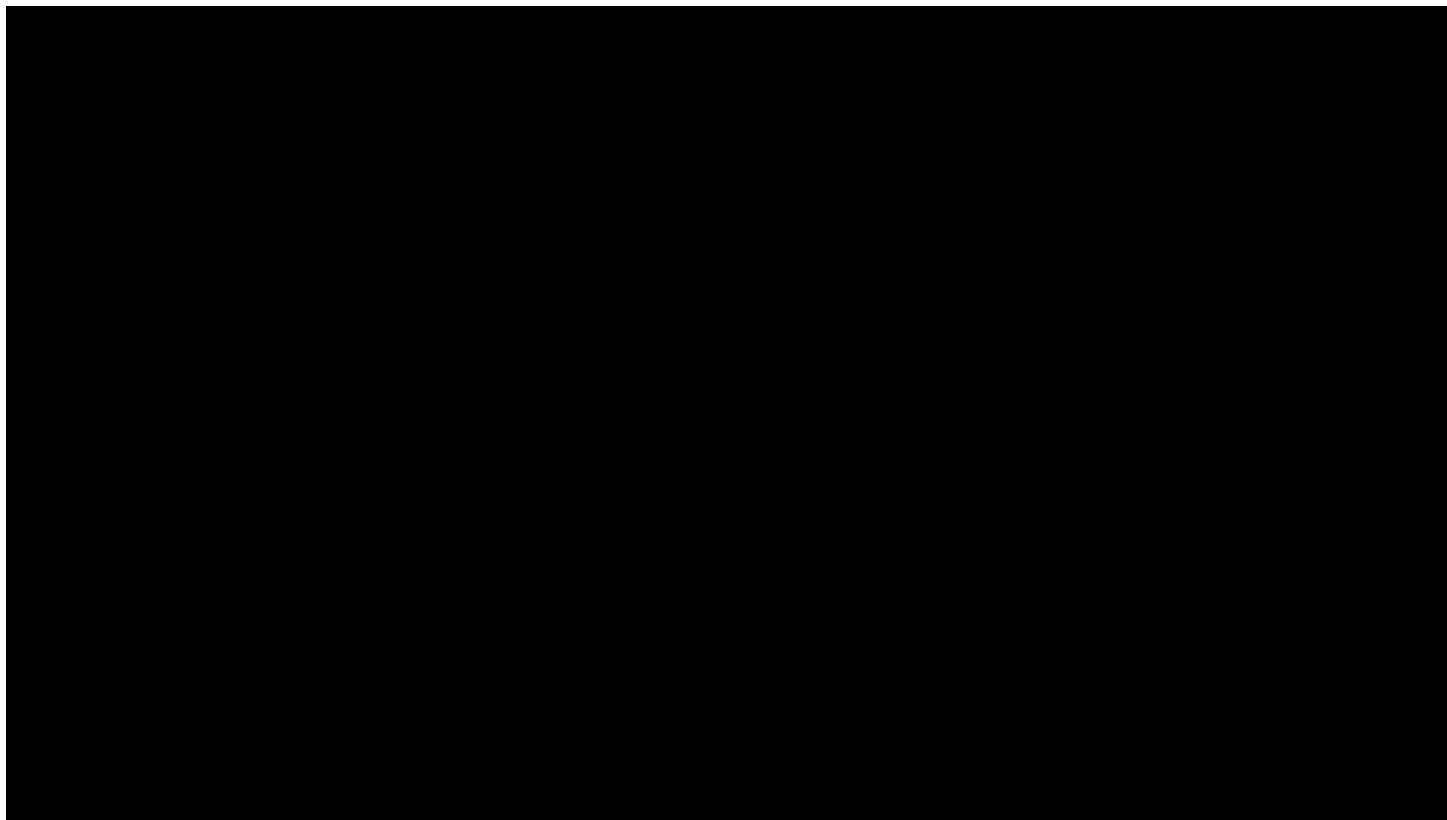
There are videos on our reception website page - Information for parents' where you can hear the correct pronunciation of the sounds.

<https://vimeo.com/753929025/5eaa45c0aa> - Phase 2

<https://vimeo.com/753931102/b9a2f8194f> - Phase 3

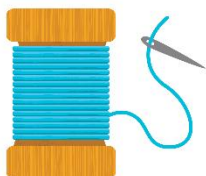


Pronouncing pure sounds



Supporting your child with reading at home

- Only 1 in 3 children are read a bedtime story at 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.



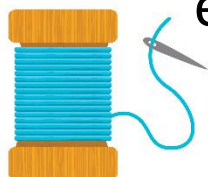
Supporting your child with reading at home

- Children are only reading from books that are entirely decodable
- Your child should be able to read their book confidently
- We only use pure sounds when decoding words (no 'uh' after the sound)
- We want them to practise reading their decodable book 5 times across the week working on these skills:

decode

fluency

expression

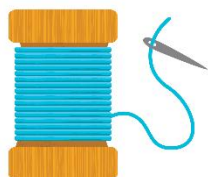


Supporting your child with reading at home



The decodable books sent home to help the children consolidate their learning and these are matched to the current phonic knowledge being taught.

This means your child can read these texts independently.



Supporting your child with reading at home

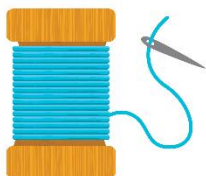


Visit Belper library on Derwent Street

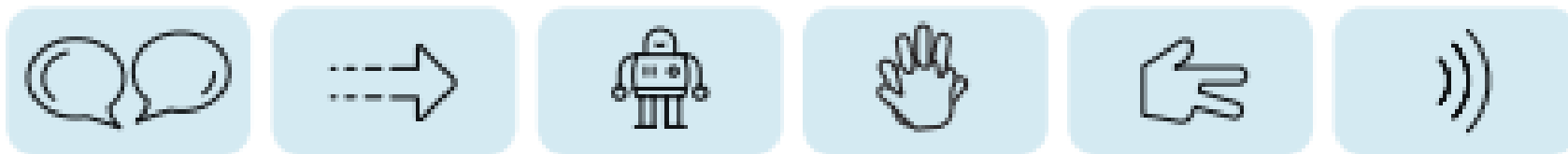
Opening hours

Monday:	9.30am - 5pm
Tuesday:	9.30am - 7pm
Wednesday:	9.30am - 5pm
Thursday:	9.30am - 5pm
Friday:	9.30am - 5pm
Saturday:	9.30am - 4pm
Sunday:	Closed

[Bank Holiday information](#)



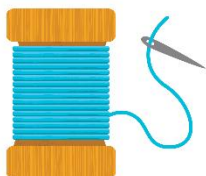
Supporting your child with writing at home



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

Let's try this with the word: rain

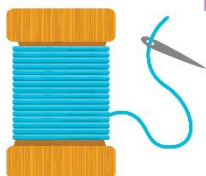
We also practise saying our sentences before we write them to make sure we write the sentence we have planned and to ensure it makes sense!



Supporting your child with writing at home

ELS GUIDE FOR PARENTS GRAPHEME INFORMATION SHEET | PHASE 2

Grapheme	Picture	Rhyme
S		snake – swerve around the snake
a		ant – around the head, down the body



Questions

Remember to take your
child's named handouts
pack.

Look at the apply booklets
and reading books

