

# ELS Essential Letters and Sounds

developed by Knowledge Schools Trust

Getting all children to  
read well, quickly.

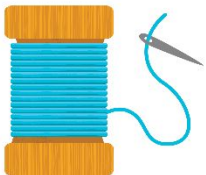


OXFORD

# 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 '**sh**op'.

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

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

ai (rain)

ay (play)

a (acorn)

a\_e (name)

eigh (eight)

ey (grey)

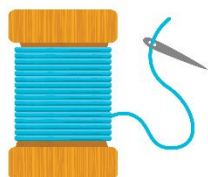
ea (great)

aigh (straight)

# What is ELS?

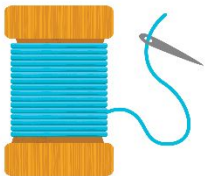
Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) is our chosen phonics programme

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



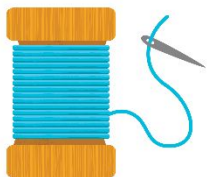
# How do we teach phonics?

- 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



# How do we teach phonics?

- Phonics throughout the day to review new sounds & graphemes taught
- Lots of opportunities for oral blending- /c/ /oa/ /t/
- We teach the 'code' for reading, alongside teaching vocabulary.



# How do we teach phonics?

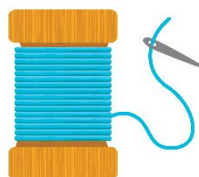
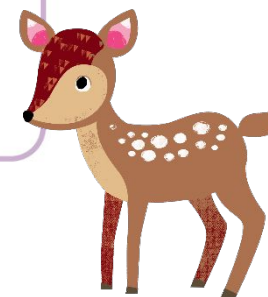
## Teach

These objects all have the /ng/ sound in.

ng



ng ... ng ... ring  
ng ... ng ... wing  
ng ... ng ... sing





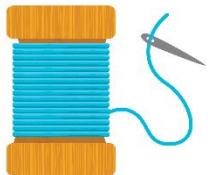
# How do we teach phonics?

Practise

Quit activity 

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

net



Practise

Quit activity 

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

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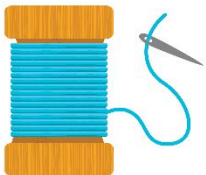
# How do we teach phonics?

Apply

Quit activity 

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

Her friend said it  
was sweater  
weather.



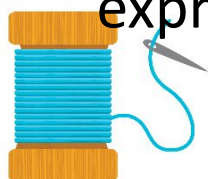
# Supporting your child with reading at home

- 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 book 4 times across the week working on these skills:

decode

fluency

expression



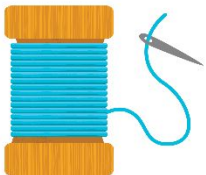
# Pronouncing pure sounds

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 for this on our school website where you can hear the correct pronunciation of the sounds.



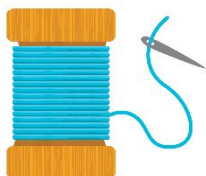
# Supporting your child with writing at home



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!





This bookmark belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_

Reading book this week:

\_\_\_\_\_

You have also been allocated some books on Bug Club to read.

Please read the Phonics decodable text **4 times** across the week. *Spending 10 mins a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader.*

Library books will come home on a **Thursday**. Please ensure they are returned to school the following Thursday ready to be changed.

This week we are focusing on the following at school:

- Phonics focus: [Phase 5- Read the digraphs and the words:](#)

ay (play all day)      ou (a proud cloud)  
ie (pie on your tie)    ea (each have a treat)  
runway clay shout cloud sprout  
cried fried spied treat teacher dream

- Harder to Read and Spell Words: [Practise](#) reading the following words:

are we put to into the want very

Can you tell an adult some sentence ideas using these words?



Focus text: Each Peach Pear Plum

Look carefully at the picture and write some sentences  
starting with **I spy...**



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Letter formation: ay:

a- (ant) around the head, down the body,

y (yacht) under the hull and down to the anchor

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# Questions

