

Phonics and Spelling at St John and St Francis Church School

At St John and St Francis Church School we teach phonics in EYFS and KS1 through high quality, systematic, daily sessions which follow the 'Letters and Sounds' programme. Our aim is to enable children to start learning phonic knowledge and skills from Reception age, with the expectation that they will become fluent readers, having secured word building and recognition skills, by the end of Key Stage One.

From an early age we encourage children to apply their phonic knowledge as their first approach to reading and spelling, even though all words do not conform to regular phonic patterns. We provide children with opportunities to read texts and words that are within their phonic capabilities as early as possible. We support children to attempt to spell words for themselves, within the range of their phonic knowledge, by building an individual repertoire and developing the confidence and strategies to attempt the unfamiliar. We provide parents with phonic information during our annual curriculum meetings in the Autumn Term. We also hold information and practical sessions throughout the year for parents to attend, such as our Reading Cafes. Please see our yearly calendar for more details.

In Year 1 children undertake a phonic screening check in June. This is carried out by a member of teaching staff who is familiar to the children, in a quiet and informal manner, so all children feel comfortable and relaxed. As a school, we provide information for parents about this national test. For any child that does not meet the required standard we plan for additional interventions to support them at school and at home in order to achieve the expected standard.

Across KS2, phonics and spellings are taught regularly across the week. We use a range of investigative activities to teach and reinforce spellings as well as more formal spelling lists.

All children are set weekly phonic or spelling home learning tasks.