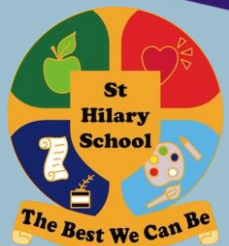




Parent/Carer Introduction to Phonics and Early Reading at St Hilary



October 2025

Welcome!

Our aims for the next hour:

- What is phonics?
- The alphabetic code
- Blending
- Reading and books
- Reading at home
- Spelling
- Questions and next steps



We love reading!

- Reading for pleasure
- Finding out information
- Reading the world around them
- Understanding forms and official documents
- Accessing future learning
- Greatly-improved life chances

READING MATTERS!

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A STUDENT WHO READS



WILL BE EXPOSED TO

1,800,000
WORDS PER YEAR

282,000
WORDS PER YEAR

8,000
WORDS PER YEAR

AND IS MORE LIKELY TO SCORE IN THE



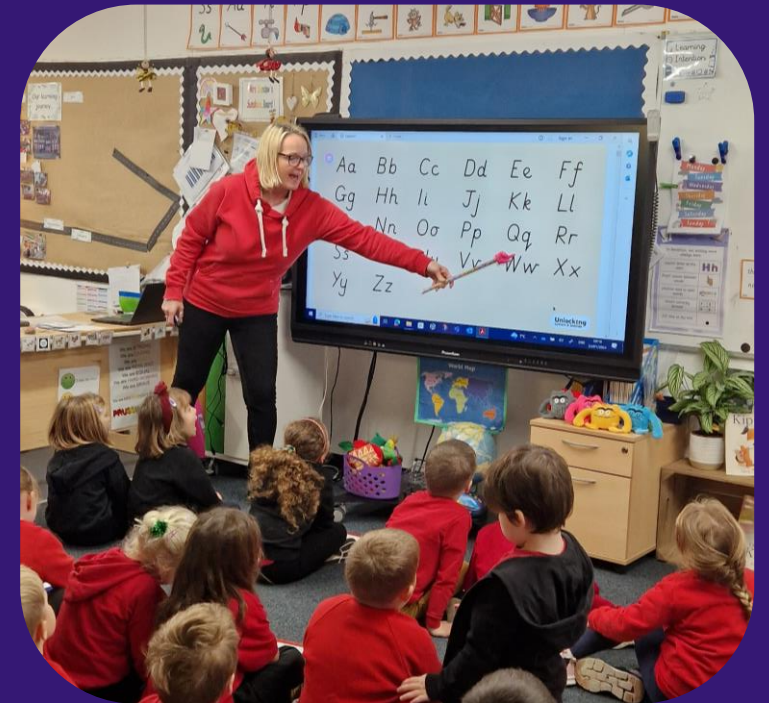
ON STANDARDIZED TESTS!

What is Phonics?

- Link between the words we say and the letters that represent each sound.
- Grapheme – the written letter or groups of letters
- Phoneme – the sounds that the grapheme makes.



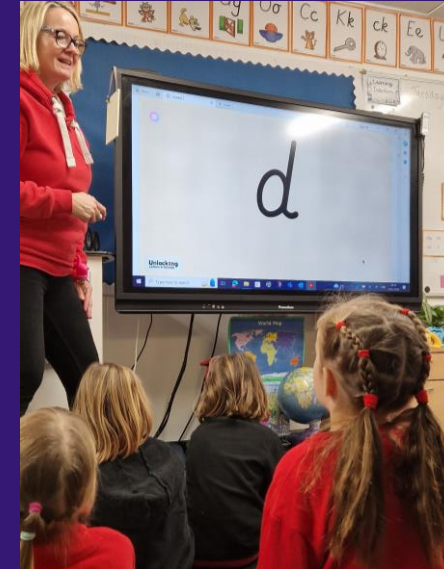
m – a – p



What is Phonics?



Jj 	Vv 	Ww 	Xx 	Yy 	Zz 
zz 	qu 	ch 	sh 	th 	th 
ng 	ai 	ee 	igh 	oa 	oo 
oo 	ar 	or 	ur 	ow 	oi 
ear 	air 	ure 	er 		



The Alphabetic Code



44

phonemes

(written down using
combinations of the 26
letters of the alphabet)

PURE SOUNDS

**Simple
Code**

(one written
pattern per sound)

**Complex
Code**

(other written
patterns for sounds)



[Link to videos](#)

Blending and syllables

- Pushing the phonemes together to make a word.



t — r — ee

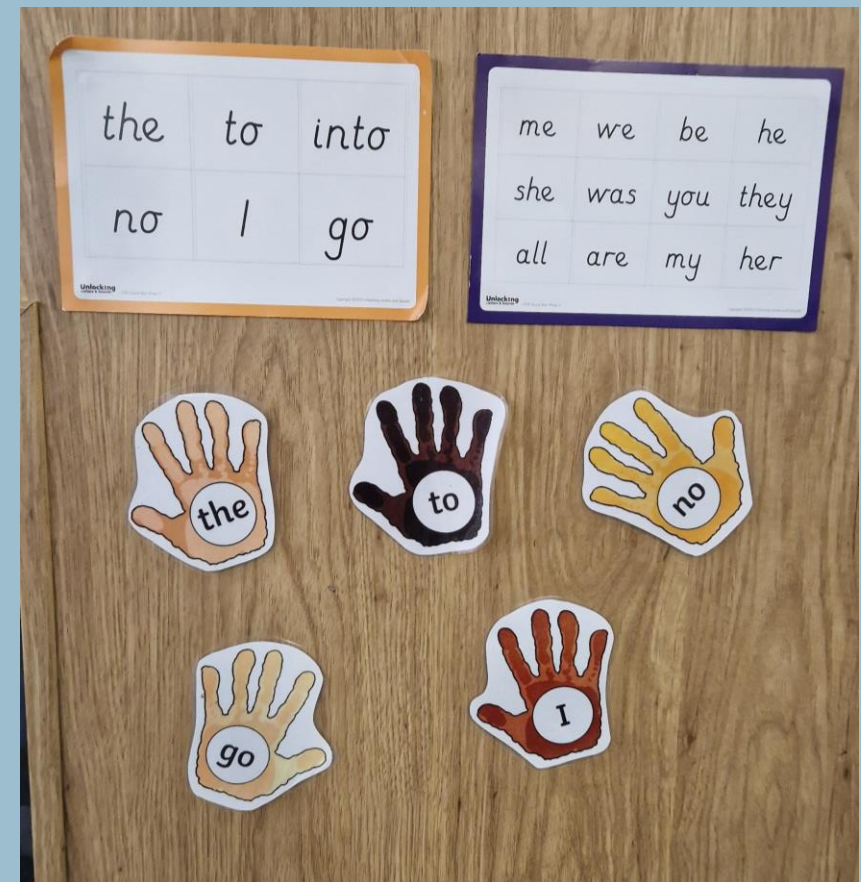
→ syllables for spelling

incredible → in | cred | ib | le



Common Exception Words

the	to	into
no	I	go



Reading and Books

- Children will be given books when they can blend – this will be at different times for different children
- Books precisely match children's phonics attainment – fully-decodable at 95% accuracy
- This might appear too easy, but we encourage children to re-read pages or books at least three times – for decoding, fluency, prosody and comprehension
- The children also choose 'real' books from the library. These are to share and experience a wide range of books and explore vocabulary with their families

→ 2 books with 2 different purposes!





Reading at home

- 5 – 10 minutes is plenty
- Choose a time that works for you both
- Be positive and celebrate successes
- Encourage them to point to the graphemes
- Encourage them to say the sounds and blend them together
- Be patient and let them try and work it out
- Read common exception words by sight
- Re-read texts/parts of texts to develop fluency

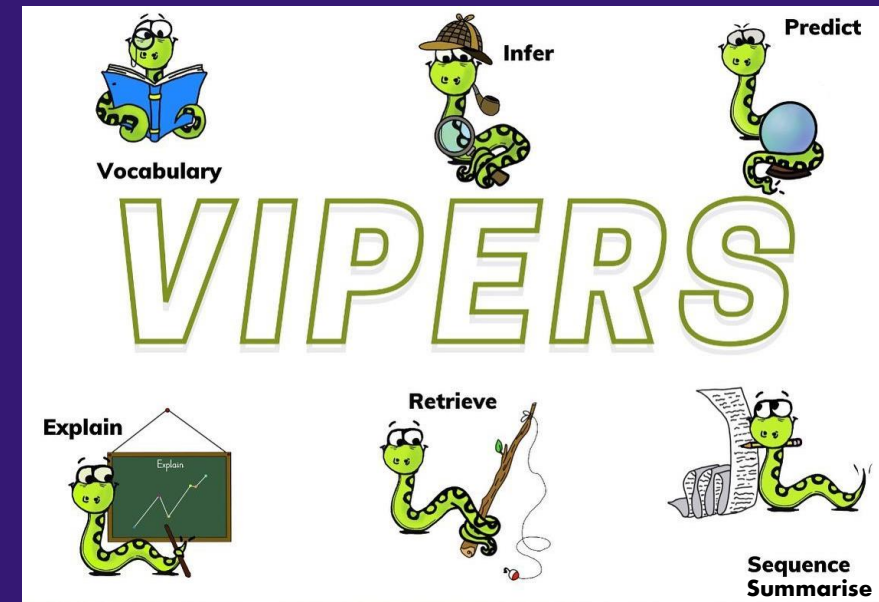
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hhu3xeNq3Kg&t=200s>

Reading at home

- Continue to read to your child as they get older.
- Model how to read a book – left to right, turning pages carefully
- Ask questions about what has happened and characters' feelings (model aloud how you think about what you're reading as you go)

→ *not so much that the enjoyment of the text is hindered though!*

- Support vocabulary development to aid comprehension
- Make predictions about what will happen next
- Make connections between texts, authors, life experiences, ...
- Model your love of reading! 💖



Reading for pleasure is **the single biggest indicator of a child's future success** – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income.*

*OECD

WORLD
BOOK
DAY
2 MARCH 2023



SPONSORED BY
NATIONAL
BOOK
TOKENS

Changing lives through a love of books and reading

World Book Day® is a charity sponsored by National Book Tokens

Allen Kettner



Unlocking Letters and Sounds

Actions, Images and Handwriting – Phase 2

- These are simple, clear actions that don't impede the child saying the sound
- The sound is only voiced once, so that the teacher can spot those children who are saying the sound slightly behind the rest of the group
- The actions also help warm up hands and fingers, ready for writing

GPC	Image	Action	Lower Case Letter Formation	Upper Case Letter Formation
s		Snake – Slithering snake action with arm	Up and over, around the other way	Up and over, around the other way
a		Arrow – Firing an arrow	Around, up, down and flick	Down, down, lift and across
t		Tap – Twisting a tap	Down and round, pencil off, across	Down from the top, lift and left to right across the top
p		Paint – Painting with a paintbrush	Down, up to the top, round to the middle	Down and back up, around to the middle

Letters, Images and Handwriting – Phase 2 page 1

Copyright ©2022 Unlocking Letters and Sounds

Spelling

- Segmenting words into phonemes (sounds) and then choosing the correct graphemes



sh – i – p

- Daily writing as part of phonics lessons

Are you ready for today's lesson?

