



Welcome!

Aims

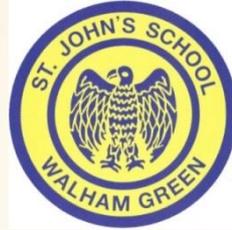
- To give information about the teaching of phonics and the development of early reading skills at St John's School.
- To support parents / carers in understanding how to support their child in phonics and reading.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read **quickly** and **skillfully**.

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a **structured** way it is the **most effective** way of teaching young children to read. It is particularly helpful for children aged 5 to 7.

Phonics at St John's





Before your child can start to read, he or she needs to learn to:

- Say the sound that is represented by each letter or groups of letters. These are called '**Speed sounds**'.
- How to **blend the sounds together** in a word to read it e.g. c-a-t cat. This is called '**sound-blending**'.

Children use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see.



Children learn:

- 44 sounds and the corresponding letters/letter groups using simple picture prompts.
- To read words using sound blending
- To write the letters/letter groups which represent the 44 sounds
- To write words by saying the sounds and graphemes



m

Letter-sound pictures are used to help your child learn these sounds quickly.
e.g. mmaisie mmmountain is morphed into m



blow the snow

2. blow, snow, slow, show, know, flow, glow

ow

snow



Phonics at St John's

Reception:

Children are taught daily for up to 20 minutes. Children are streamed into groups to ensure that they are given the appropriate support.

All pupils will have completed Set 1 and Set 2 sounds by the end of the year.

Year One:

Children are taught daily for 30 minutes.

Children consolidate their phonics knowledge from the previous year, and will be ready move on to learning Set 3 sounds. The main focus will be on learning the alternative ways that some vowels can be written.

For example: play, rain, bake



Phonics at St John's

Both reception and Year 1 pupils are provided with the necessary **phonics practice material**. This will allow you to help them practise their decoding skills and develop their reading skills.

- Sound books / flash cards
- Word list to practise blending
- Tricky words
- Decodable reading books

Tricky words

- Children will regularly practise reading 'Tricky Words' to further develop fluency in reading.
- These words, which are **not phonetically decodable**, frequently appear in story books and therefore important for children to learn by sight.

Assessment

- Children's progress in developing and applying their phonic knowledge is carefully assessed and monitored.
- Teachers use daily phonics sessions to monitor children's progress and assess children through their writing and reading.
- In addition in Year 1 children will take the phonics screening check. This assessment will confirm whether individual pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. If a child does not reach the appropriate standard then additional support will be put in place in order for the child to make the necessary progress with their reading and writing.

How to help your child at home

- Always try to pronounce 'pure' sounds.
- Lower case (with exception of the first letter of their name)

Games

- Eye spy
- Odd one out
- Treasure hunt games.
- Bingo